

THE EPISTLE

FEBRUARY - 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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A Bad Day

Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. -- Lamentations 3:22-23

"I just need this day to end!" Ever felt that way? Ever felt that way already by noon? When things are going poorly, that thought can be a very real one. When things seem to go from bad to worse as the day progresses, a desire for it to end might well be our sentiment. There is something about a new day, a fresh start that seems to put things in perspective and gives renewed energy.

The Old Testament writer of these words from a book called Lamentations was having more than a bad day. He had experienced a whole bunch of them. Enemies of the nation had entered it ruthlessly. They deported most of the people. Cities lay in ruins. The temple of God in Jerusalem had been destroyed. The annihilated nation was the laughingstock of her neighbors. A once proud and mighty country had been reduced to rubble. And the worst part? It was their own fault! Because the people of Judah had turned away from the Word and the will of the Lord, he had caused this to happen. He had done it that they might wake up and turn from their current path of spiritual destruction.

But then right in the middle of this book of mourning come words of comfort and hope. Words of refreshment and renewal to the broken down and despondent: The Lord hasn't abandoned us! The Lord is full of love and compassion toward us! No matter how faithless we've been, the Lord remains faithful! As a new day and a fresh start are the grace and mercy of God, the unfailing promises of God, centered in the rising Sun of a Savior from sin, gave hope to Jeremiah (author of this short book) and any of his countrymen who would give ear and heart to this beautiful message.

There are many things that contribute to bad days. Too often at least some of them are our own fault. A harsh word to a family member causes a rift. A rude email to a co-worker makes a project bog down. A bit of laziness or procrastination puts us behind schedule. A night of partying leads to a day of misery. The list might go on. As we come to a realization that we are often to blame for our own difficulties, let's remember these words of comfort and hope from Lamentations. The One promised to them has come to us as the baby born in Bethlehem. The One they awaited to deal with their sin is the Savior Jesus Christ who gave himself as a sacrifice for sin on Calvary's

cross. In his forgiveness each day is a new and fresh one. And if we happen to be dealing with something that's not particularly our fault, remember the One who has risen from the dead and stands to fuel your spirit with his compassionate love and faithful companionship. With the Lord and his promises, every day is a new one!

Prayer:

Lord, although we don't deserve it, you shower us with your love and mercy each day and each hour of the day. Help us to look to you and to lean on you and your compassionate faithfulness in Jesus at all times. In his name we pray. Amen.

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

From the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

We have just finished up another year, and boy how time flies. We have slowly chipped away at the largest of the projects on the horizon within the needs of the church but you can almost always assume there will be another just around the corner. 2018 saw the completion of some much needed projects and some that came up by surprise. Thanks to the many volunteers and an understanding congregation that wants what is best for our church. All projects were completed in a timely and smooth manner, and those of us on the board greatly appreciate that. Looking forward to 2019 to go as smoothly as 2018, and above all as the chairman of the trustee board, we hope to serve the church and do all things to HIS GLORY!

ALL TO HIS GLORY

Gary Jackson,

Trustee Chairman

Board of Trustees End of the Year Report

1. Get the northeast corner of the church tuck pointed.
Action: Contact local contractors and get bids.
2. Seal around the west windows that were bricked in on the gym, and east windows that still leak.
Action: Buy Materials for Leon to fix the leaks
- 3. Gutters and down spout heaters? Loose wires on several down spouts are not connected.**
4. Have a pall cloth storage unit built.
5. Have a contractor determine where the leak in the roof around the west entryway and have it repaired, as well as the water damage around the entry way door.
6. Get a bid to replumb the teacherage and replace the outdoor faucets.
7. Extend the vents on the school.
Action: Get material list from Leon and he will fix it.
8. Put a goose neck faucet in the kitchen to fill big pots.
9. Look into replacing the cleaning service at the school.*****????????
10. Replace damaged tiles in the womens bathroom in the basement.
11. Look into replacing the emergency lights.

Completed actions:

- a. Bedroom in the Sunnyside property basement. (Apr)
- b. Clean gutters on addition. (May)
- c. Church clean up crew. (May)
- d. Retile the upstairs bathrooms. (May)
- e. Rock around the historical sign and playground. (May)
- f. Straighten the rail on the west side. (June)
- g. Paint the rails outside the church. (July)
- h. Side walks in front of church and teacherage. (July)
- i. Replace tiles in mens room and hall in basement. (Aug)
- j. Chainlink fence in the teacherages back yard. (Sept)
- k. Sidewalk east of school. (Oct)
- l. Leak along additions east side. (Oct)
- m. Paint east wall and touched up basement. (Oct)
- n. Removed 2 trees and 3 stumps at school. (Nov)
- o. Build 2 counter and legs for Audio/Video Equip. (Nov)

St. Paul's Lutheran Elementary School

1) Information (Coming Up)

- a. February 18-22 Lutheran Schools Week.
- b. February 22-23 NELHS Basketball Tournament.
- c. Daddy-Daughter Dance – February 10th
- d. Science and Arts Fair – March 16th.
- e. Parent - Teacher conferences February 7th.

2) Enrollment

- a. K-8 Enrollment is at 83 currently.
- b. Pre-K enrollment is currently 44.
- c. Pre-K 2019-20 Registration is full with a waiting list.... have 52 registered.
- d. Kindergarten Enrollment – looking strong from Preschool surveys.

3) 2018 Activities

- a. Six 8th Graders graduated last May.
- b. Received PATCH grant for updates to P.E. equipment!
- c. School Apparel – St. Paul's and Central Lutheran Saints gear available
- d. Principal Apprentice program finished, taking Masters courses.
- e. Archery is new to St. Paul's. Students love it!
- f. Started After School Care for families... averaging around 20 per day.
- g. Split 1st -2nd classroom into individual classrooms.
- h. Marketing (Yard signs, apparel, Facebook, radio, etc.)
- i. Implementing ideas from conference on Harvest strategies
- j. Powerschool – continuing to use more of its features!
- k. Library grant received – purchased many new books!
- l. “Trunk or Treat” – Had 780 kids on campus! Close to 2,000 total!
- m. “Christmas for Kids” – Around 58 kids in attendance!
- n. Parent Support Group has restarted! More family events happening!
- o. St. Paul's SCRIP Program – sold over \$10,000 worth in just over a month!

4) 2019 Items

- a. Working with Pastor Hirsch on advertising ideas.
- b. Re-accreditation – Site visit this April.
- c. Maternity leave in Kindergarten – Rachel Reichert is filling in!
- d. Continue updating/fixing playground and P.E. equipment.
- e. Long Range Plan – gym, classrooms, etc. (Building committee has formed)
- f. Continue to live out our school theme: “Walk with God! Talk with God!”

In Christ,
Mike Paulsen

OBITUARY

ROXANNE M. JOHNSON

Roxanne was called home to her Savior's side in heaven on Sunday, December 23rd, 2018 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

Roxanne Margaret Mary (Stangel) Johnson, daughter of Raymond and Tillie Stangel, was born to life in this world on July 1st, 1955, in West Point, Nebraska. She was reborn to spiritual life through holy baptism on July 17th, 1955. She graduated from Dodge High School. On September 21st, 1974, Roxanne was united in marriage to Ron Johnson at St. Wenceslaus Church in Dodge. They were blessed with three children, Erika, Justine, and Rance.

Roxanne was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk, being confirmed in the true Christian faith there on March 24th, 1976. She enjoyed volunteering at church and school.

Roxanne is survived by her husband, Ron; children, Erika (Ryan) Elbert of Kansas City, Justine Buboltz of New Ulm, Minnesota, and Rance Johnson (special friend Julia Brecht) of Crete, Nebraska; seven grandchildren, Cameron, Graham, Paige, Mia, AJ, Julia, and Josie; and siblings, Ray Stangel of Rochester, Minnesota and Teresa Amos of Columbus, Kansas.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

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

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST:

- In memory of Roxanne Johnson (\$100)(\$10)

ST. PAUL'S TECHNOLOGY FUND:

- In memory of Ella Bohn (\$250)

- In memory of Roxanne Johnson (\$100)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

- In memory of Roxanne Johnson (\$25)(\$20)

ST. PAUL'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- In memory of Roxanne Johnson (\$40)(\$20)

OTHER DONATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

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

January 6 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
January 13 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
January 20 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
January 27 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

Church Attendance:

Dec. 19 (11), Dec. 22 4:30 PM (392) 6:30 PM (276), Dec. 23 (132),
Dec. 24 (194), Dec. 25 (90)
Dec. 26 (8), Dec. 29 (62), Dec. 30 (108), Dec. 31 (44) = 222 (50%)
Jan. 2 (14), Jan. 5 (84), Jan. 6 (90) = 188 (43%)
Jan. 9 (8), Jan. 12 (65), Jan. 13 (142) = 215 (49%)
Jan. 16 (17), Jan. 19 (58), Jan. 20 (146) = 221 (50%)

Communion Attendance:

Dec. 31 = 32 (9%)
Jan. 2, 5 & 6 = 142 (38%)
Jan. 16, 19 & 20 = 122 (33%)

Weddings: None

Baptisms:

*01/20/19 Paul Brent-Jethro Schwindt *son of Brent Schwindt & Lacey Hansen*
01/27/19 Athena Wilcox, Abileen Wilcox, Azalea Wilcox – *grandchildren of Cleton & Patti Bretschneider*

*non-member

Funerals:

12/28/18 Roxanne Johnson

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