

THE EPISTLE

MAY - 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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Making Sense of Tragedy

"Unless you repent, you too will all perish." -- Luke 13:3

Dozens are left homeless in the wake of a natural disaster. Victims lose their lives when gunmen open fire on schools. Hundreds die every month in wars and terrorists attack the innocent around the world.

Could these tragedies have been prevented? Who is really at fault? Where was God, when these things happened? Why did they happen?

We're okay when bad things happen to bad people. Maybe, somehow, they are finally getting what they deserve. Maybe God wants to teach society a lesson about immoral living.

But how our thoughts change when tragedy strikes us or when what happens seem unfair! Why did she get cancer while her friend stayed healthy? Why did his son die in the war zone while mine came back alive? Why do innocent bystanders get caught in the crossfire of violence?

It's not fair, God! Why do you let bad things happen to good people? If you are truly just and loving, how could this happen?

But why those things happened at those times to those people is God's business, not ours. It is not our job to judge those who were affected, and God certainly isn't calling us to judge him. Instead, he wants us to take a good, hard look at ourselves. "But unless you repent, you too will all perish," Jesus said.

The word "repent" means "turn around." God wants to use the tragedies of life to turn our hearts away from our sin that leads to death to our Savior who gives us life.

None of the tragedies of Jesus' day or ours can compare to the apparent injustice that Jesus experienced. He was the sinless Son of God. But he was convicted, condemned, and crucified for crimes he never committed.

When he suffered and died on the cross, Jesus switched places with you. He took your accusations against God, your questioning God's love, your holding onto sinful ways, and he gave you his perfect trust, love, and obedience. He faced hell to give you heaven. He endured death to give you life.

When tragedy strikes, may God's love at the cross quiet our questions and turn our hearts to Jesus in sincere repentance and joyful praise.

Prayer:

God, life doesn't always make sense. When tragedy strikes, help me to trust your love in Jesus my Savior. Amen.

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



St. Paul's Lutheran School

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!

St. Paul's Lutheran Epistle April 2019

Principal's Report

1) Information

- a. Sent home Re-enrollment Letter – waiting on 1 family for response 48 out of 49
- b. Commission on Lutheran Schools visited last week
- c. After School Program – averaging 18-20 students per day
- d. Central Lutheran Saints – Finished up for the year (2nd place finish @ NELHS)
- e. PSG – Looking to add to spring events that already are planned
- f. Science and Arts Fair – cancelled for the year, put projects on display in church
- g. Quarter 3 ended on March 8th (MAP spring testing is finished)
- h. St. Paul's SCRIP – Adding more inventory and getting more families on board

2) Enrollment

- a. K-8 Enrollment: 83 (11 8th grade graduating)
- 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”/ 54 kids already
- e. Kindergarten Round-Up (11 signed up already)
- f. Waiting List grows...if more bring in forms, we need a plan for 2 groups
- g. New student possibilities (Looking at up to 8 new students in K-8)

3) Ministry Action Plan

- a. Gym, EC Center, etc. – Building committee (Cottage meetings)
- b. Accreditation – Visit is complete – 98.75% Fully Met for Exemplary Status!

4) Other Items

- a. PATCH Grant – We received the grant – \$400
- b. Play Night – April 26th starting at 6:30pm
- c. 2019-2020 Calendar is being finalized...should be out this month
- d. 7-8 class trip: April 16-18 in Kansas City
- e. Advertising – Working with a graphic designer
- f. School Apparel – finalizing order options

In Christ,
Mike Paulsen

LADIES AID

The St. Paul's Ladies Aid met on April 4, 2019, for their monthly meeting with thirteen members present. The third and fourth grades, under the direction of Mrs. Heidi Rixe, read a selection of poetry to the group. Pastor Reichert let the devotions on Luke 19:28-40.

President Schlieve called the meeting to order. Roll Call was read and the Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with one change. The money from the Lenten supper will go to the Cradle Roll instead of playground equipment. Pastor Reichert explained that this is a development program for kids. "Strong roots for tender shoots". The Treasurer reported a balance of \$429.04 (\$75 of this is money that will be sent to missions.)

Reports given:

LWMS – Carol Schlieve reminded the ladies that the Spring Rally is Saturday, April 6, at Shepherd of Peace \$134 that was collected for missions was given at the Rally. The National Rally will be in Des Moines, IA on June 27 to 29. President Schlieve presented the nominees for the LWMS Nation home missions.

Entertainment report – Carole Kopietz

Flower – Marian Tinius

Kitchen – Carol Wachter

Correspondence was read.

Corinne Swogger and Arla Konopasek audited the Treasurer's books and found them to be in order.

Kay Bettin's name has been taken off of the roster since she has moved and is no longer a member of St. Paul's.

A list of names of the ladies of the congregation that are willing to help serve funerals was distributed. The special program that was planned for June 19 has been postponed. April 25, 2019, was set for our annual church kitchen cleaning. It was decided that the money left on the Thrivent card be used for general supplies.

A motion was made and seconded that we send \$50 to the pre-graduation party at NELHS. Motion carried.

Books which are given to prisoners by the Pastor administrator were distributed to the ladies. These are a Bible teaching series.

The birthday song was sung for Ella Klug and JoAnn Grebe.

The next meeting will be a noon luncheon on May 2, 2019. Hostess and Entertainment Committee are Betty Pufahl and JoAnn Grebe. Roll Call will be "A May basket memory".

Group 1 will serve next.

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

Neva Winter,
Ladies Aid Secretary

OBITUARIES

HOWARD R. WINTER

Howard was born July 4, 1935, to Walter and Rosella (Wichman) Winter, in Norfolk. Howard attended Norfolk Public Schools and graduated from Norfolk Senior High in 1953. Howard graduated from Norfolk Junior College in 1958. He served in the Nebraska National Guard from 1959 to 1962.

Howard was a certified social worker and worked at the Norfolk Regional Center for 42 years, retiring in 2000. Howard married Janice Keifer on May 28, 1977 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk.

Howard loved Husker football, watching sports of any kind, nature and the outdoors, traveling, trains and animals, especially his cats.

Howard is survived by his wife Jan, his children Dawn (Rick) Gilsdorf of Norfolk, Kim Meyer of Lincoln, Steve (Carol) Petersen of Tilden, Susan Mickelson of Neligh, Beverly Petersen of Los Angeles, CA, Beth (Jeff) Schieffer of Riverton, WY, and a sister Jeanette Rasmussen of Minneapolis, MN, 13 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials are suggested to St. Paul's Lutheran Church radio broadcast or St. Paul's Lutheran School of Norfolk tuition assistance.

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

- April 7 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
April 14 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
April 21 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
April 28 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST:

- In memory of Delbert Niewohner (\$10)
- In memory of Betty Gnewich (\$20)(\$10)(\$20)

OTHER DONATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- For Flood Relief (\$100)
- For St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund (\$50)

Church Attendance:

Mar. 27 (141), Mar. 30 (71), Mar. 31 (141) = 353 (78%)
Apr. 3 (162), Apr. 6 (69), Apr. 7 (144) = 375 (83%)
Apr. 10 (118), Apr. 13 (54), Apr. 14 (192) = 364 (81%)
Maundy Thurs. (152), Good Fri. (192), Easter Sunday (291) = 635 (141%)

Communion Attendance:

Apr. 6 & 7 = 133 (35%)
Maundy Thurs. = 103 (28%)

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Funerals:

04/23/19 Howard Winter

Release from Membership:

04/23/19 Chris, Rona and Matt Weich

Reinstate after Excommunication:

04/23/19 Warren "Butch" Millikan

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