

# THE EPISTLE

OCTOBER - 2016

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 my Savior from Myself*

**By grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.** – Ephesians 2:8-9

“I can do it all by myself!” If you have children, you have heard these words. You want them to learn how to do things on their own, but usually they pick times to try when it is least convenient for you. Walking out the door, already late is the time they want to tie their shoes for the first time.

Have you ever thought, “I can do it all by myself?” Doing a project at work by yourself may result in a raise or promotion. However, trying to get into heaven by yourself will never work.

Think about this question: “If you were standing outside of heaven’s gates and God asked you, ‘Why should I let you in?’ what would you say?” Well, how would you answer? “Oh, I was a good dad/mom.” “I was faithful at work.” “I never (fill in the blank).”

If you answered that way, can you hear it? It is the sound of silence; the sound of heaven’s gates NOT opening. God requires us to be perfect like him. That means that if we want to go to heaven we can never do any wrong...ever!

The truth is that no matter how hard we try, no matter how much good we do, we will never be perfect. Even just one wrongdoing disqualifies us from heaven. Honestly, we commit many, many wrongs in life. So for the prospect of heaven, each of us has to admit, “I CAN’T do it by myself!”

But we don’t have to do it ourselves! God tells us in his Word that we have been saved BY GRACE! Though we are undeserving, God deeply loved us. He sent his Son, Jesus, to open the way to heaven for us. Jesus did this by sacrificing his innocent life in our place for all of our wrongdoing. Now, through Jesus we are perfectly right before God, all because we didn’t do it ourselves. Jesus did it for us!

Why should God let you into heaven? You can point to Jesus and say, “Because of him.” Jesus is the one who opens heaven.

Thank Jesus for this wonderful gift! He is your Savior who did it all for you!

(Outreach Newsletters - October 2016 - Jesus is the Savior)

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## **From the Board of Elders**

The Elders met in the Church Library on September 6th. There were several membership actions taken, including transfer requests, adult confirmation and membership via Profession of Faith. They will be voted on at the quarterly meeting on October 25th. The Next FaithBuilders session is soon to start, and there are several prospective families that have expressed a desire to attend the fall session. Delinquency efforts go on, as we continue to follow up on those membership calls we were working on this summer. Letters and calls are also going out this month.

As we are close to the end of the most recent Ministry Plan document, the Elders decided to start brainstorming what we could do moving forward. Some of the ideas included enhancing contact with visitors, member home visits, use of technology and modern music in worship, social media, and ways to publicize the church/school throughout the area. We'll spend more time in the future further refining those goals.

Pastor Reichert and several Elders are also reviewing a possible source for Christian bible studies/TV shows/videos through a subscription service. It could be something where members of our congregation would have access to the content. We'll keep you posted as we review more of the content...

That's all for now. Thanks!

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## LADIES AID

The St. Paul's Ladies Aid met on September 1, 2016, at the Meadows for their monthly meeting. There were sixteen members present. Guests were Lorene Mittlesteadt, Virginia Raasch, and Pat Klug. Pastor Reichert's Bible Study was on Hebrews 13:1-8 "Humble Love Exalts It's Neighbor".

President Carol Wachter called the meeting to order. Roll Call was answered by "how many children and grandchildren do you have?" The Minutes were read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$4,684.54.

Carol Schlieve reported that the LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) Fall Rally will be in Hoskins on October 1. Registration will be at 8:00 AM. Pastor Keith Free will be the speaker.

Flower and Contact reports were given by Marian Tinius.

Carol Schlieve reported that the cost of replating the Communion Ware is \$1,825.00, not \$1,405 as previously announced. The communion cup that we are using now was borrowed from St. Mark's.

The Ladies will participate again in the WELS Special Ministry Christmas cards for prisoners. Cards can be given to Carol Schlieve by the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. These can be the front of used Christmas cards. They should be religious, not glittery and don't sign your name.

Correspondence was read.

After some discussion a motion was made and seconded that because of the difficulty to take care of the live plants in the church they will be disposed of. Motion carried.

The problem of what to do with the food that is left over from funerals was discussed. There were several suggestions, but nothing definite was decided.

The original motion as to what to do with the rummage sale money will stand. What is left from repairs on the communion ware will be given to the choir.

A motion was made and seconded that Mr. Marshall be given permission to decorate the Christmas tree in the church entryway. Motion carried.

Betty Pufahl volunteered to take care of the nomination ballots.

The birthday song was sung for Carol Wachter and Arla Konopasek.

The next meeting will be on October 6 at 1:30 PM. Carole Kopietz and Corinne Swogger (in place of Darlene Bretschneider) are on the Hostess and Entertainment Committee. Roll Call will be answered by "tell a Halloween memory". Group 2 will serve next.

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

The ladies, accompanied by Lorene Mittlesteadt, sang several songs.

Neva Winter,  
Ladies Aid Secretary

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## **ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

Twenty members of the Adult Fellowship Committee met on September 25, 2016, at the home of Jamie and Pat Jamison. John and Jan Uecker were guests.

Pastor Schlieuwe led the Bible Study on the disciple Simon the Zealot.

President Jamie Jamison called the meeting to order. Roll Call was taken and the Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$384.79.

Gary Jackson thanked the group for helping with the expense of having the church pews cleaned. He reported that it will probably be 2-3 weeks before the windows that are being re-leaded will be back and the others removed. It is possible that the present curtains will be darkened.

John Uecker reported on different ideas that the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is working on: a historical marker that would be registered by the state of Nebraska and placed by the church. Fix some of the stones in the cemetery, especially Pastor Hoeckendorf's. Get 150 books for the school.

The next meeting will be on October 23, 2016. The committee for October is Gary and Laurie Jackson and Neva Winter. The committee for November is Pastor Schlieuwe and Carol and Darol Dusseau.

The meeting was adjourned and ten-point-pitch was played.

Neva Winter,  
AFG Secretary

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## **Adoption Fundraiser Report**

Sherry and Ron Kraemer, parents of Josh and Tensie (Kraemer) Steck, wish to thank the community of believers in the Norfolk area for their support of the adoption fundraiser held Sunday, Sep 25th. The feelings of kindness and Christian love for our fellow man were simply amazing. We can't thank enough all of those folks that donated food, advertinsing help, labor and cash gifts to help Josh and Tensie have a family that grow together in Christ. God has truly blessed our family! With the help of Thrivent's \$250 member gift card and the donations of over 150 people, every dollar of the \$3137 raised was given to Josh and Tensie. Dear Brother's and Sister's in Christ - many times Thank You for your overwhelming love and support!

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

September 4 (Labor Day weekend) - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund.

September 11 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund.

September 18 - In memory of JoAnn Schwede, given by her family & friends.

September 25 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund.

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The following were received since Jan. 1, 2016

### MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

#### ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST:

- In memory of Don Radenz (\$30, \$10, \$50, \$25)
- In memory of Danny Walters (\$25)
- In memory of Edwina Bohn (\$20, \$50, \$10, \$100, \$362.50)
- In memory of Darlene Bauermeister (\$50, \$10, \$25, \$25, \$10, \$15, \$15, \$10, \$25, \$20, \$10, \$20, \$20, \$20, \$20, \$25, \$80)
- In memory of Ella Bohn (\$100)
- In memory of Gerald Wickhert (\$30)
- In memory of Dorlene Sweigard (\$20)
- In memory of Elaine Schmeckpeper (\$200)
- In memory of JoAnn Schwede (\$60)
- In memory of Mavis Hateliff (\$10)

#### LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHEAST:

- In memory of Don Radenz (\$10)

#### NEBRASKA EV. LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL:

- In memory of Don Radenz (\$25)

#### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL:

- In memory of Don Radenz (\$100)

#### ST. PAUL'S CARPET FUND:

- In memory of Don Radenz (\$25)
- In memory of Edwina Bohn (\$50, \$10, \$100, \$100, \$362.50)

#### 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUND:

- In memory of Don Radenz (\$25, \$20, \$20)

#### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

- In memory of Don Radenz (\$25, \$10, \$15, \$20, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$75)

## OTHER DONATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- 4 hymnals (\$100)
  - Pastors Retreat / Conference (\$100)
  - Radio Broadcast Fund (\$100, \$25, \$100, \$100, \$50, \$100, \$100, \$50, \$100, \$100)
  - Tuition Assistance Fund (\$144)
  - Carpet Fund (\$400)
  - St. Paul's Lutheran Church (\$180)
  - Sr. Choir (\$15, \$100, \$62)
  - Pew Cleaning (\$100, \$100)
  - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund (\$150)
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**Church Attendance:** Sept. 3 & 4 – 206 (44%); Sept. 10 & 11 – 233 (50%); Sept. 17 & 18 – 222 (48%); Sept. 24 & 25 – 164 (35%);

**Communion Attendance:** Sept. 3 & 4 – 131 (33%); Sept. 17 & 18 – 144 (36%);

**Private Communion (September):** Delilah Planer, Viola Froehlich, Adalee Ebeling, Elden & Sharon Ohlmann, Roxanne Johnson, Vicki Wittgow, Frances Wagner, Lois Retzlaff, Marge Voecks, Marv Dreyer, Carol LaCroix.

**Visits:**

**Weddings:**

09/30/16 Mike Revenelle & Emily Henning

**Baptisms:**

09/10/16 Barrett Nicholas Dederman – *son of Nick & Heather (Young) Dederman*

**Funerals:** None

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