

# THE EPISTLE

SEPTEMBER - 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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## Change Your Clothes

*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. -- Ephesians 4:22-24*

I've never liked changing my clothes. Ever since I was a boy, changing clothes seemed like such a bother. I was too busy to change my clothes. I had places to go and things to do. My mother thought differently. When my brothers and I would come home after a long summer day of playing in the dirt and mud, our mom would tell us in no uncertain terms, "Change out of those filthy clothes before you come into this house!" She would not have her well-kept house fouled by our filthy clothes.

Spiritually speaking, we are all filthy. We were born with a self-serving, self-seeking, sinful attitude. That sinful attitude has shown itself in what we have said and done against other people and against the God who made us. There is no way God will allow anyone into his holy home called heaven unless they are spiritually clean. Fortunately, that is precisely what Jesus did for us. He lived a sinless life. Through faith in Jesus, we are robed with his righteousness. In God's eyes, we are cleaned up and he promises us entrance into his home of heaven.

While we are living here, though, we are still stained with sin. We are constantly changing our spiritual clothes—that is taking off our old sinful self and putting on the new self, Jesus has created us to be. It is not easy. You will not always feel like changing. But, keep doing it! Toss aside your old sinful self like a pair of dirty jeans. In its place put on the new self—the holy self, Jesus has made you to be.

### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for earning a new set of spiritual clothes for me. Empower me to throw off my sinful self today to put on your holiness in its place. Amen.

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## **From the Board of Elders**

Recent discussions in the Board of Elders have included the ongoing evaluation of our ministry relationship with Beautiful Savior, O'Neill. The three years of shared ministry support in the initial agreement has been extended as the potentials for new ministry bonds of friendship staffing relationships in that area are considered. A meeting is planned in September so elders from both congregations can discuss the next steps in meeting the ministerial needs for both congregations.

Other discussions have recognized the encouragement members should give each other to join in Sunday Bible study opportunities, as well as other opportunities to gather in fellowship around The Word. We particularly should be encouraging our fellow board members, elders and others, to be participating regularly.

Additionally, there has been discussion of a new member assimilation program. We would hope that all members and visitors feel welcomed in our midst, but we recognize that new members should not be forgotten as they seek a sense of belonging in their worship life. Of course we also need to remember to reach out to current members that we may not see regularly, to encourage them to maintain a strong faith.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Kouba

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## **From the Board of Trustees**

Dear Friends,

So Nebraska is once again under a FROST advisory and before you know it the Huskers will be national champs again, but lets not rush it to fast lets hope for a winning season, lets say 7-5. But summer is getting ready to wind down and fall is coming on and our big blue marble continues to go round and round. The trustees have had a good summer over all not to many major happenings took place.

As you have all heard by now we are putting together mowing teams, ideally 8 5person teams would be awesome. That would mean each team would only have to mow once every 2 months, we are slowly approaching 5 teams and I am soooo thankful for the members who have come forward and volunteered. Our goal is to make it through this year and put together a complete program before spring. And while I am on the subject of mowing I would like to thank John Uecker for donating a mower and to the cemetery board for giving us a good price on one and to Delmer Pufahl for giving the church his GF1800 front deck zero turn mower this is all such wonderful and glorious gifts. So when you see Delmer or Lefty or John let them know how much they are appreciated.

Another person who seems to slide under the radar is Mike Mullen, again this year he diligently worked to get the halls and gym at the school to look good. He has done this for many years and I don't think some realize the number of hours he has put in, let him know it is not all for not. There are so many things going on that I know I have missed someone and for that I am truly sorry. Until next time may you all have a Blessed Month

ALL TO HIS GLORY  
Gary Jackson  
Trustee Chairman

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## **From the Board of Christian Education**

The 2019 school year kicked off last week with a lot of exciting things happening at St. Paul's! Enrollment has grown to 96 students K-8! We also have expanded our Little Lambs preschool by adding a second classroom (old library) and bringing on Katie Brown to teach in the new preschool room. What a blessing to have Mrs. Mullen and Mrs. Brown working together to serve in our preschool. We have also added back the music program! Mr. Brown will be in charge of the music program and teaching the kids on a variety of musical instruments.

Our building Committee has been working with B.C. Builders on coming up with an idea of what the expansion might look like and cost. We should have a drawing and a layout of the plan in the near future. It's awesome to see this committee work together! Several people from all different back grounds, and sister congregations coming together to see to it that our school is positioned for the future to keep providing a good Christian Education and teaching kids about our Savior Jesus Christ. Any questions of the Building Committee feel free to contact Scott Uecker, BOCE, Pastors, or Mr. Paulsen. Input is needed and welcomed!

God has blessed us with a congregation that is passionate about mission outreach through the school. We are blessed with our teachers, pastors, and volunteers that spend countless hours serving the kids and members of St. Paul's. As we start the 2019 school year here at St. Paul's we have a lot to be thankful for!

God Bless,  
Justin Webb

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# 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 August 2019**

### Principal's Report

#### 1) Information

- a. School starts on August 21<sup>st</sup>
- b. Parent Information Night – 29 new students in K-8 so lots of new faces!
- c. Rummage Sale – Raised \$2,445 to be used for school technology!
- d. Golf Outing will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> – Sign up to help out!
- e. Teacher Summer In-Service took place Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup>
- f. School Theme for 19-20: Set your minds on things above!
- g. Ice Cream Social– August 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30pm. Yard games outside.
- h. St. Paul's SCRIP – Switch in % to benefit everyone more!

#### 2) Enrollment

- a. K-8 Enrollment: 96 enrolled!
- b. Pre-K enrollment – 54 currently (still could change)
- c. Preschool Enrollment has fluctuated much in last two weeks

#### 3) Ministry Action Plan

- a. Gym, EC Center, etc. – Waiting on BC Builders for RFP
- b. Accreditation – Approved Exemplary Status for the 2019-2020 school year!

#### 4) Other Items

- a. Masters Classes – Passed summer course and signing up for fall class
- b. WELS Ed – Tech - Lead Conference – Mentor Families for new school parents
- c. After School Care – Shelly Austin is our lead for 1<sup>st</sup> semester
- d. Banners are done for upcoming school year, along with curriculum items
- e. Admin Release – Wrinkles in the plan
- f. Aide personnel – Kristen Bauer (PreK) and Yajaira Myers (3-6)
- g. School Apparel – Store is up and running, August 25 is deadline

In Christ,  
Mike Paulsen

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## Ladies Aid

The St. Paul's Ladies Aid met on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, for their monthly meeting with thirteen members present. Pastor Reichert's devotions were on Luke 10:25-37 "Followers of Christ love their neighbors".

President Schlieve called the meeting to order. Roll Call was read and the Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$724.73.

The flower report was given by Marian Tinius and the contact report by JoAnn Grebe. Correspondence was read. The LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) Fall Rally will be in Omaha on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Mohlke will be the speaker.

The punch cups were given to Gary Bretschneider who will try to sell them on E-Bay.

A motion was made and seconded that we no longer go to The Meadows for meetings. Motion carried. The September meeting will be at the church instead of at The Meadows as planned.

Used Christmas cards for prisoners can be given to Carol Schlieve before November. They should be religious, NO glitter and no personal messages.

Pack Away for Hunger is October 6<sup>th</sup>.

It was suggested that we visit the Museum sometime next year.

The President asked us to be thinking about gifts for the shut-ins. Contact Committee for this month is Carol Wachter and Neva Winter. A Nominating Committee will be named next month.

Hostess and Entertainment Committees for September 5<sup>th</sup> is Carol Schlieve and Neva Winter. Roll Call will be answered by "The first school you attended". Group 2 will serve next.

The birthday song was sung for Linda Jensen, Barb Brandt, and Neva Winter.

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

For entertainment the ladies were asked to write down as many of the businesses that they could remember that had once been in Norfolk.

Neva Winter,  
Ladies Aid Secretary

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## OBITUARY

### **RICHARD KESTER**

Richard (Dick) G. Kester was born October 8, 1936, in Neligh, Nebraska to Lucile (Atwood) Kester and Lloyd Kester. Lloyd passed away at the age of 28 and Lucile later married Howard Earing. Dick was baptized at the Neligh Church of Christ and joined St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1964. He graduated from Neligh High School in 1954 after which he joined the Army and spent 16 months of his service in Korea.

Dick married Shirley (Dittman) Kester November 17, 1957. They made their home in Norfolk, Nebraska and were blessed with four children.

Dick was a general contractor and owned Kester Construction Company. After he "hung" up his hammer, he worked in retail development for Affiliated Foods and retired after 19 years. Because of his reputation and construction knowledge, he would do "just one more job" and never ever really retired.

He was active in many local clubs and organizations: Norfolk Archery Club where he held three state championships; Northeast Nebraska Shooting Association; Norfolk Lion's Club; Past President of the Norfolk Builders Association; American Legion; and VFW.

Dick was a long-time member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska where he served the Lord in many capacities. He was also active in the formation of the Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School in Waco, Nebraska.

Dick was a jack-of-all trades and could master anything he put his mind to with perfection. He was a pilot and owned three airplanes. His passion was working with his hands doing woodworking, machining, and gunsmithing. He enjoyed his daily coffee "clubs" and traveling. Dick was quick-witted and had an answer for everything.

He is survived by daughter Tammy Goetz of Vermillion, South Dakota; daughter Carla (Tom) Wallat of Federal Way, Washington; and son Joel of Blair, Nebraska; six grandchildren; one great grandchild; and his special friend Dee Jaeke.

He was preceded in death by his parents and stepfather; his twin brothers Ronald and Donald Kester. Shirley, his wife of 49 years, who passed away in 2006, and his son Tracy who passed away in 2011.

Richard died on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at his home.

Funeral services were held for Richard G. Kester, 82, of Norfolk at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 10, 2019, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Norfolk: Reverend Paul Hirsch officiated. Military rites were held by the Nebraska National Guard Honor Guard, American Legion Post 16 and VFW Post 1644. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

Dick requested in lieu of flowers; donations be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The donations will be directed toward the radio broadcast fund.

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

- August 4 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
- August 11 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
- August 18 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
- August 25 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

## MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

### ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST:

- In memory of Gilbert Grimm (\$20)(\$75)(\$25)(\$25)(\$360)
- In memory of Richard Kester (\$1,035)

### ST. PAUL'S CEMETERY FUND:

- In memory of Gilbert Grimm (\$50)

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH LIBRARY FUND:

- In memory of Gilbert Grimm (\$350)

### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

- In memory of Gilbert Grimm (\$45)(\$25)(\$15)(\$20)
- In memory of Richard Kester (\$25)

## OTHER DONATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- For St. Paul's Choir (\$70)

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### Church Attendance:

July 24 (12), July 27 (57), July 28 (137) = 206 (46%)  
July 31 (6), Aug. 3 (62), Aug. 4 (144) = 212 (47%)  
Aug. 7 (10), Aug. 10 (82), Aug. 11 (121) = 213 (47%)  
Aug. 14 (11), Aug. 17 (81), Aug. 18 (175) = 267 (60%)

### Communion Attendance:

Aug. 3 & 4 = 136 (36%)  
Aug. 17 & 18 = 152 (41%)

### Visits:

(by Ladies Aid - July) Ruth Uecker, Pat Klug, Hal & Barb Tesch, Frances Wagner, Bev Ohlman, Della O'Gorman, JoAnn Tiedgen, Norman & Marjorie Voecks, Darlene Bretschneider, Larry Schwede, Carol LaCroix, Delbert & Joyce Bretschneider.

(by Ladies Aid - August) Ruth Uecker, Pat Klug, LaVera Roemhildt, Hal & Barb Tesch, Bev Ohlman, Della O'Gorman, Norman & Marjorie Voecks, Darlene Bretschneider, Larry Schwede.

Weddings: None

**Baptisms:**

07/22/19 Macklin Connor Kruse (Affirmation on 08/17/19)

**Funerals:**

08/10/19 Richard Kester

**Received into Membership by Profession of Faith:**

7/23/19 Kate Bretschneider

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