

THE EPISTLE

FEBRUARY - 2021

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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The Big Picture

"Who has known the mind of the Lord." -- Romans 11:34

We live in a crazy, chaotic world. 'What is God doing?' Perhaps you have heard that question asked a few times. Maybe you are wondering: 'If God really cared about us, wouldn't he stop this pandemic? Wouldn't he bring an end to all this inequality? Wouldn't he stop the violence?'

It certainly can be difficult to understand what God is doing. The Bible often reminds us that God's thoughts and ways are so much higher than our own. We do not always see the big picture of things. This can lead to frustration and anger when we do not understand why God allows certain things to happen. This, in turn, leads us to blame God or turn away from God.

"Who has known the mind of the Lord?" God may be tough to figure out at times, but just because we do not understand his plan does not mean that we can assume he does not love us. Quite the opposite, actually. When God sent Jesus into this world to die on the cross to pay for our sins, nobody understood that either. Even Jesus' closest followers tried to stop it or to talk Jesus out of it. Yet, even though they could not understand what God was planning, it ended up being a huge blessing for them and the whole world. In sending Jesus to die on the cross, God made sure that there was a way for us all to be saved. Through faith in Jesus, we are forgiven, and on the way to heaven.

We cannot always understand God's plan or know the mind of the Lord. But as we see his plan for saving us through Jesus, we can be assured of his love for us and his intent to bless us. This means we can trust him. As events around us seem to spin out of control, trust that God has a plan. He loves you and has saved you and will continue to carry out his will with you in mind.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for salvation in Jesus. While I do not always understand your plan, help me to trust you and your love for me. Help me to know that you will always take care of me. Amen.

From the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

We are all praying that the COVID-19 pandemic is soon coming to an end as it has been nearly a year. Sorry that it has been awhile since I submitted an Epistle article but it has been a slow time for all. The last few months have been rather slow for maintenance and up keep when nothing is going on. That being said, March and Spring are just around the corner so there will be lawn care coming soon. If you would like to help with this we have sections of the flower beds around the school and church that families or groups can basically adopt and take care of and it is not as demanding as you may think. Two or three times in the summer you can weed them and keep them up in your own time frame. Also, I will be looking for people to help out on the mowing teams, again mowing can be done usually later in the week. Please contact me with any questions or to volunteer.

A couple of weekends ago the trustees got together and put in new heat tapes in the down spouts on the church, it was much needed as we found none of the old ones worked this year. Joel Weideman was a huge help as he brought in the boom truck to get up to the gutters and he cleaned them out while up there. I also want to thank Mike Mullen and Eric Nunnenkamp for coming in and running the lines, the three of them did an awesome job.

Over the summer a couple of bigger projects did get done. Mike Mullen once again tackled the waxing at the school and a huge thank you to the teachers as they tackled their own rooms this year. The school looked good as always. Joel Weideman also came through again as he replaced all the light fixtures in the 1st and 2nd grade room with LED fixtures, eventually we will have them all converted.

This last weekend was rather exciting in a sence as a water pipe bursted in the ceiling of the north end of the school. Mr Markgraf found it and Dan Hofmann was notified and came right in. Dan fixed the ball joint that gave way and Mr. Markgraf and the teachers that could make it in cleaned up the mess. We will be needing to replace the tiles and insulation that were damaged once everything dries out. May be looking for help on that next Saturday the 23rd.

One last thing, with all of this Covid and other annoying things happening around us it is truly awesome to see the job the Ladies have done in the Fellowship Hall, with the new pictures and furniture and over all decor. Take a minute and say thank you to them and the other folks mentioned here for taking time to help. Without folks like this, a lot of things would not get done. GOD Bless your month and months ahead.

ALL TO HIS GLORY

Gary Jackson
Trustee Chairman

OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY RENNER

Funeral services for Shirley A. Renner, 89, of Parker, Colorado, formerly of Madison, NE., will be held at 10:30am, Thursday, December 31, 2020, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk with Pastor Paul Hirsch officiating the service. Burial will take place at Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery in Norfolk. Visitation will be held from 9:30-10:30am prior to service time also at the church. Shirley died Sunday, December 6, 2020, at Pine Grove Crossing Memory Care in Parker, Colorado. Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk is in charge of the arrangements.

Shirley A. Renner, the daughter of Julius and Ada (Beckman) Lafrenz, was born August 10, 1931, in Davenport, Iowa. She was baptized on August 30, 1931, and confirmed on March 25, 1945, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Davenport. She worked at Sieg Company in Davenport after graduating from Davenport High School on June 9, 1949. She married Leonard Renner on June 13, 1959, in Bettendorf, Iowa. After marriage, Shirley joined Leonard on the farm in rural Madison. She was a housekeeper and enjoyed raising her children and spending as much time with her family as she could. She was an avid baker and enjoyed trying new recipes. She had a special fondness for LWMS and loved attending rallies and national conventions. She was a resident of Countryside Home in Madison, Nebraska, from March 2017- June 2019 and then a resident of Pine Grove Crossing Memory Care in Parker, Colorado, from June 2019 until the time of her death.

She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska.

Survivors include her daughters, Judie (Terry) Martinson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Becki (Tom) Seidl of Elizabeth, Colorado; a son, Mark (Sharon) Renner of Rochester, Minnesota; 10 grandchildren, Jesse and Tracie Martinson, Benjamin, Elizabeth and Matthew Seidl, Emily (Aaron) Kristopeit and Steven, Katie, Kevin and Samuel Renner; one sister, Audrey (Walter) Biberdorf and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Leonard; her parents, Julius and Ada, and her sister and brother-in-law Ida Mae and Marlo Dorn.

Honorary pallbearers will be Benjamin Seidl, Matthew Seidl, Jesse Martinson, Steven Renner, Kevin Renner and Samuel Renner.

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

(Obituaries Continued)

VIOLA FROEHLICH

NORFOLK — Services for Viola M. “Vi” Froehlich, 90, of Norfolk will 1:30 p.m. Dec. 26, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Norfolk. The Rev. Paul Hirsch will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be one hour prior to service at the church. Home for Funerals is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials have been requested to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.

She died Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk.

1930-2020

The service will be live streamed on the St. Paul’s website at www.stpls.com by clicking on the Livestream Service icon.

Viola Mae Benson was born March 7, 1930, on the family farm near Bloomfield to Martin and Mabel (Sceli) Benson. She was baptized and confirmed at Thabor Lutheran Church in Wausa. She graduated from Bloomfield High School.

She married Warren “Bud” Froehlich on Nov. 9, 1951, at Thabor Lutheran Church in Wausa. Vi and Bud operated a bar in Hadar.

Vi will fondly be remembered as the caretaker of family — she always did what was necessary to take care of them. She delighted in her family and their Swedish heritage. She doted on her grandson. Vi will also be remembered for her great smile. In her younger years, she was a very good bowler and loved going to national tournaments. Vi enjoyed her soap operas, game shows, country music and dancing with Bud.

She is survived by her daughters, Kathy Froehlich of Norfolk and Sandy (Phil) Frank of Lincoln; grandson Schuyler Froehlich; brother Dale “Pete” Benson; and many nieces and nephews.

Vi was preceded in death by her parents, husband and nine siblings.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.homeforfuneralsinc.com.

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

January 3 - St. Paul’s Radio Broadcast Fund

January 10 - St. Paul’s Radio Broadcast Fund

January 17 - St. Paul’s Radio Broadcast Fund

January 24 - St. Paul’s Radio Broadcast Fund

January 31 - St. Paul’s Radio Broadcast Fund

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST:

- In memory of Roxanne Johnson (\$200)
- In memory of Larry & Dorlene Sweigard (\$50)

ST. PAUL'S RADIO AND TV FUND:

- In memory of Shirley Renner (\$167.50)(\$25)(\$20)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

- In memory of Viola Froehlich (\$15)(\$10)

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

- In memory of Shirley Renner (\$20)

OTHER DONATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- For St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund (\$400)(\$50)(\$100)(\$100)
 - For St. Paul's Tuition Assistance Fund (\$100)
 - For St. Paul's Live Streaming Service (\$250)
 - For St. Paul's Live Streaming and Radio Services (\$50)
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Church Attendance:

Dec. 19 (81), Dec. 20 (72) = 153 (34%)

Christmas Eve = 116 (26%)

Christmas Day = 55 (12%)

Dec. 26 (41), Dec. 27 (54) = 95 (21%)

New Year's Eve = 63 (14%)

Jan. 2 (49), Jan. 3 (64), Communion Service (21) = 134 (30%)

Jan. 9 (60), Jan. 10 (71) = 131 (29%)

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Funerals:

12/26/20 Viola Froehlich

12/31/20 Shirley Renner

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