THE EPISTLE

NOVEMBER - 2020

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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Find Joy in Trials

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. . . . Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. ***-- James 1:2-4,12***

Dr. Wayne Dyer, a self-help author, once said: "A bar of iron costs $5, made into horseshoes its worth is $12, made into needles its worth is $3500, made into balance springs for watches, its worth is $300,000." To be worth that much, iron must go through quite a trial by fire. The more it passes through the heat, is hammered and polished, the greater its value.

As a rule, we try to avoid going through the heat. We don't like experiencing trials in our lives. But James, the half-brother of Jesus, challenges us to change our perspective. He says that God uses trials to make us better. In that sense, they are a blessing from God. Our gracious God has a good goal in allowing us to face all kinds of trials. Trials build and strengthen the character of our faith. The testing of our faith helps us to focus on the right things, eternal things.

The trials God allows us to face remind us that this is not our home. A better life now is not the goal. God has already prepared the best life for those who love him in the world to come. It is an eternal home with him that Jesus made possible for us by his life, death, and resurrection. He faced every trial common to humanity and persevered. And when he passed through God's fiery wrath on the cross for our sin, he forged the crown of life for all who love him.

So, when God calls you to face all kinds of trials, don't sigh and say, "Oh, boy." Remember the goal that God has in store for you after you have passed through them, look up and say, "Oh, joy!"

Prayer:
Lord Jesus, help me to be faithful to you in trials so I may receive the crown of life you have prepared for me. Amen.

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

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LADIES AID

The St. Paul's Ladies Aid met on October 1, 2020, at 1;30 PM. There were seven members present. Pastor Hirsch's devotion was on the parable "The Unmerciful Servant" Matthew 18:21-35. President Carol Schliewe called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer reported a balance of $351.18.

President Schliewe reported that the LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) Summer Rally was held on-line and that 811 congregations took part in it.

Reports given:
Flower – Marian Tinius

A motion was made and seconded to send Appreciation Cards to our three Pastors with a monetary gift for Pastor Appreciation Month. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to reduce our annual donation to African Missions from $100.00 to $50.00. Motion carried.

After some discussion a motion was made and seconded to eliminate the Vice President position, with the agreement of the current officers to continue to serve for another year. Motion carried.

All agreed so next year's officers will be:
President – Carol Schliewe
Secretary – Carol Wachter
Treasurer – Carole Kopietz

President Schliewe reminded the ladies of the area LWMS Rally to be held here at St. Paul's on Saturday, October 3, 2020, at 9:00 AM.

There were no Birthdays for October.

The next meeting will be November 5, 2020, at 1:30 PM. Roll call will be "Tell us your middle name".

We will be making the kits for Christmas gifts for our shut-ins.

Hostesses will be Betty Pufahl and Linda Jensen.

Group 5 will serve next.

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

Ladies Aid Secretary
Carol Wachter

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

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

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:
- In memory of Shirley Mayer ($500)

OTHER DONATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- For St. Paul's TV / Radio Fund ($100)
- In appreciation of St. Paul's Livestream Service ($250)

Church Attendance:
Sept. 26 (78), Sept. 27 (134) = 212 (48%)
Oct. 3 (41), Oct. 4 (96), COVID Service (16) = 153 (34%)
Oct. 10 (91) Oct. 11 (67) = 158 (36%)
Oct. 17 (79), Oct. 18 (100), COVID Service (13) – 192 (43%)

Weddings: None

Baptisms:
10/10/20 Bryce Edward Neidig – *son of Ed & Alecia (McCabe) Neidig*

Funerals: None

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