

# Grace News

Volume 9, Number 1

First Quarter '10

"We preach Christ crucified." That's what Paul told the Corinthians. That's also the theme for our Lenten series this year.

Paul pointed out that preaching a crucified and risen Christ was not popular in his day. People of Jewish background were offended at the thought that the Messiah would die. To them, Messiah was supposed to drive out the Romans, not be crucified by them. People of Greek and Roman background were offended as well. If they were going to believe in a Messiah he ought to be powerful, not weak. And this resurrection thing, what modern, enlightened person could believe such nonsense as a crucified man rising from the dead?

Our situation is no different than Paul's. People still today are offended at a crucified and risen Christ. People look at the crucifixion and like the Jews and Romans see weakness. People hear about the resurrection and like the Greeks consider it fantasy and myth, foolishness.

These things didn't stop Paul and they shouldn't stop us from preaching the crucified and risen Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit working through the word, when we look at the cross we see power, not weakness; we see wisdom, not foolishness. We see God offering Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the whole world. We see God raising Jesus from the dead because he has accepted his sacrifice as payment in full for all sins. We see the wisdom of God in providing a way of salvation that is free; that is dependent on what he has done, not on what we do; that is by grace alone.

No matter what anyone says or thinks, hold on to your crucified and risen savior no matter what.

*Mark A. Hauf*



## Voters' Meeting Summary

### Pastor's Report:

2009 Year End Report

Statistics:

Membership:

62 Baptized Members (+8 from last year)

50 Communicant Members (+7 from last year)

Worship Attendance: Averaged 38 per Sunday, +3 per Sunday from last year. We averaged 40 at our special services (Lent, Ascension, Christmas, Mission Fest, etc)

We have 2 shut-ins, 2 members living out of town and 2 students away at college. We averaged about 28 people at our monthly devotion Ridgewood Homes, including our shut-in who lives there. Thanks to Anna Richert and Carol Kratochvil for playing for these devotional services.

Bible Class Attendance: Averaged 9 per Sunday (same as last year). We averaged 7 at our Thursday Evening Bible Classes, and 3 at our Greene House Bible Study.

Sunday School: Averaged 3 stu-

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## Birthdays

2-2 Clint Ridpath  
2-3 Zachary Richert  
2-7 Helen Winterfeld  
2-10 Jan Plautz  
2-20 Armand Richert  
2-23 Taryn Dredge

3-6 Rebecca Caldwell  
Kathy Schlechte  
3-7 Zoe Richert  
3-13 Clayton Dredge  
3-14 Bonnie Vogt

4-1 Gerald Fickel  
4-12 Nathan Schleusener  
4-14 Keith Richert  
4-26 Anna Schleusener

## Anniversaries

3-29 Herman and Bernadine Schmidt  
4-22 Allen and Janet Plautz

**Congratulations**

## Treasurer's Report Year End 2009

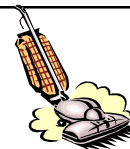
Beginning Balance:	5,207.04
Offerings:	<u>446,141.15</u>
Total	451,348.19
Expenses:	
Salary	16,998 .00
Ins & Tax	3,351.50
Maintenance	1,616.89
Misc.	843.18
Office	3,527.64
Utilities	3,214.15
Architect	46,821.24
Ministry	2,979.36
Worship	1,328.25
Special	410.00
Insurance	6,973.00
Pension	1,770.00
To Building Fund	<u>246,760.17</u>
Total	336,583.38
Designated funds:	
WELS Synod Budget	15,928.25
NELHS Budget	14,687.00
Trinity	30,346.00
Synod Special(LATTE)	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total	62,161.25
Total Expense	<u>398,744.63</u>
Balance (less Building)	<b>32,553.60</b>
Building Fund balances	
In CD's	360,780.49
At NELHS	104,297.29
In Checking	20,050.00
In Savings	<u>246,795.24</u>
Total	<b>731,923.02</b>

WELS 2009 Commitment:  
7,500.00, 166% of our yearly commitment was met, our new goal is 8,000.00.

NELHS 2009 Commitment was 7,000.00 divided 75% to Operating 25% to BFC. 117% of our yearly commitment was met. Our new goal is 8,000.00.



## Cleaning and Ushering Lists



### Cleaning

Feb 7-14 Caldwell; Feb 21-28 Armand Richert  
March 7-14 Volunteer Needed; March 21-28 Spring Cleaning  
April 4-11 Ridpath; 18-25 Winterfeld

### Ushering

Feb	Armand Richert
March	K. Richert
April	Volunteer Needed



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dents per Sunday, there is 1 student in confirmation class this year (at Trinity).

There were 18 students in VBS.

There were 25 at Christmas for Kids.

Baptisms: Kate JoyAnne Otte

Confirmations: Brogan Dredge, Abbey Kuhl

Funerals: Joan Tibbetts

Transferred to other WELS Congregations: None

Removed from membership: None

Received by transfer from another WELS congregation: Curtis Rathjen; Matthew Willems; Sarah, Kenyon and Rebecca Caldwell; Kathleen and Paul Goodrich.

Received by Profession of Faith: Raymond Krueger

New Resident visits continue to be made weekly. Thanks to Keith Schleusener and Gordon Schlechte for devoting their time to make many of these visits. It is very important that we make sure our visitors are welcomed. Each month we mail a newsletter/ devotion to over 300 unchurched people on our prospect list. A goal

is to contact these people personally or by phone to invite them to a Bible Information Class. Continue to pray for our outreach work.

Christmas for Kids – Thanks to all who worked hard to plan and prepare for Christmas for Kids. Saint Johns is now offering something similar, usually on the same day, but we still have good attendance.

The 4th of July booth continues to be a positive tool for community awareness and outreach. Thanks to everyone who helps with this project.

Thanks to the building committee for their work on plans for our new building. Continue to pray that the Lord would bless this effort, keeping us united during the building project and then using it to help us reach more people with the good news about Jesus.

Membership:

Mr. Jeff Pallat was removed from membership at grace. Pastor and the Elders have had no response to repeated attempts to contact him over the last few years. Our church in Boise has, and will continue to try to make contact with him.

**Elder/Trustees:**

The flooring in the kitchen of the

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parsonage will be replaced with laminate flooring.

**Building Committee:**

Updated plans were shared with both the voters and the ladies. Comments were positive and suggestions were noted by the building committee. The ladies gave guidance as to colors for the pew pads, carpet and tile.

It was noted that we have spent \$46,821.14 in architect fees so far, but through his work with the fire marshal we saved 50,000 to 60,000.00.

The first bid, for the dirt work, came in 5,000.00 less than the estimate.

A desire for the addition of a communion rail was expressed by the voters.

**Evangelism:**

Keith Schleusener, Gordon Schlechte and Pastor Haefner continue to call on those who are new in town. In the fourth quarter 36 calls were made in Seward. Twenty of those were churching and 16 were unchurching. Seven calls were made in Utica with four being churching and three being unchurching.

For the year, 171 calls were made in Seward with 102 being churching and 70 being unchurching. Forty calls were made in Utica with 25 being churching and 15 being unchurching.

We thank and praise God for everyone who help to make calls and for all who remember this work in their prayers. Everyone is encouraged to make it a point to welcome

all visitors to our services.

**Education:**

We continue to offer two Sunday school classes. Our Sunday school enrollment is 7 children.

**NELHS:**

With the addition of three more international students from Korea, enrollment is at 70.

Miss Lehman finished her student teaching at NELHS and has returned to Martin Luther College.

The Building for Christ offering will be extended. It is at about 200,000.00. The goal is 300,000.00. The focus, however, will be on supporting the operating budget.

It was reported that Mr. Charron had returned his call to WLA and will remain at NELHS.

The accreditation process has been completed and NELHS has been granted accreditation.

Keith Schleusener read the letter that is also printed in the latest "Contact" regarding the recommended cuts the NELHS board will bring to the association.

**Trinity:**

Miss Elyse Limpert finished her student teaching at Trinity at the Christmas break. Mr. Stern reports that she did well.

Grace was thanked for providing names of pre-school children for the school to contact.

Due to generous gifts and matching funds the Trinity special cash flow fund has been completely repaid and all bills with the exception

of the loan from St. Paul's Cemetery Association are paid.

**WELS:**

The Conference of Presidents is meeting this week. Watch your boxes for a report in the next "Together" flier.

**Elections**

Keith Schleusener had reached his term limit as Elder/Trustee. Martin Otte was elected to serve as Elder/Trustee.

Keith Richert was re-elected as President of the congregation.

**Other Business**

Our commitment to NELHS was set at 8,000.00, 25% of which will go to BFC.

Our commitment to WELS was set at 8,000.00.

The annual motion regarding the section 107 housing allowance

**Dates to Remember**

- 2-18 Ash "Thursday"
- 2-21 NELHS Association and Ladies Auxiliary
- 2-26/27 LES Basketball Tournament at NELHS
- 3-21 NELHS Easter Concert at Bethel, York
- 4-1 Maundy Thursday Worship at Grace, Seward
- 4-2 Good Friday Worship at Bethel, York
- 4-4 Easter Sunday
- 4-29/30/5-2 NELHS Musical



was adopted.

There was discussion as to when we would need the money we have loaned to NELHS. We will give them notice that we will need it about a year from now.

A motion was made and passed to send a gift of 5,000.00 to NELHS and to forgive the interest owed on the loan for this year. The motion also included sending 2,000.00 to WELS Committee on relief for Haiti.

### Church Council

President: Keith Richert  
Secretary: Nathan Schleusener  
Treasurer: Bruce Burger  
Fin. Sec: Thomas Otte  
Elder/Trustees:  
Gordon Schlechte  
Martin Otte  
Clint Ridpath

Building Committee:  
Armand Richert  
Keith Richert  
Allen Plautz

Evangelists:  
Keith Schleusener  
Gordon Schlechte



Themes for Lenten Worship,  
Thursdays at 7:00 PM, starting  
February 18, 2010

The Foolish Wisdom of the  
Cross

Justified by Grace through Faith  
Alone

More Precious than Life

The Reason to Endure

Peace with God through Our  
Lord Jesus Christ

No Longer Dead but Alive

Holy week services for this year  
will be:

Maundy Thursday joint  
Grace/Bethel worship at Grace at  
7:00 PM on April 1.

Good Friday joint Grace/Bethel  
worship at Bethel at 7:00 PM,  
April 2.

### Reaching Out in a Digital World

Bethel will be hosting this year's area evangelism seminar entitled "Reaching Out in a Digital World." It will be held on Saturday, February 13 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Pastor Phil Hirsch, a member of our District Evangelism Committee will be the presenter.

All are invited to attend this seminar, especially church leaders and members of evangelism committees.

Let Pastor Haefner know if you are planning to attend so that enough materials will be available. If your plans change and you find that you can come at the last minute and have not registered, you can just show up.

The WELS Committee on Relief (COR) has authorized the release of \$25,000 to the international relief agency CARE for immediate disaster relief supplies for Haiti following the Jan. 12 earthquake.

According to Mr. Mark Vance, COR director of operations, working with CARE allows money donated by WELS members to be put into immediate use for relief efforts in Haiti.

Donations to the earthquake relief effort can be made online. Checks can be made out to WELS Committee on Relief. Designate Haiti earthquake and mail to: WELS Committee on Relief, 2929 N Mayfair Road, Milwaukee WI, 53222-4398.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is matching donations from its members to WELS Committee on Relief.



We are testing personal assisted listening devices. If you have trouble hearing

in church, give them a try. Those who have tried them like them. Simply insert the earpiece in your ear and turn it on. You can adjust the volume on your personal receiver. If you have any trouble ask and usher or elder for help.