

Grace News

Volume 9, Number 2

Second Quarter '10

During our celebration of Jesus' ascension we are reminded that he is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Everything has been put under his feet and he rules everything for the good of those who love him. But this is nothing new. That's the way it has always been. God has always been and always will be in charge of everything that happens, not just on earth but throughout the whole universe.

Through a dream and that dream's interpretation by Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar was warned not to take credit for his position and the power of his kingdom. When he failed to heed the warning God struck him with some form of mental illness that caused him to live in the fields like an animal until he humbled himself and acknowledged that God was in charge. God was the one who had blessed him with all that he had. After he recovered he issued a decree that was published throughout his kingdom. It said "*I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*" (Dan. 4:37)

What Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way may each of us learn from the pages of Scripture. God's thoughts and ways are infinitely higher and better than ours. What a comfort to know that no matter what is happening around us, he is at work to make everything serve our good so that we can spend eternity with him. As the ultimate proof he turned Jesus' crucifixion into the means of our salvation. What comfort and peace is ours when we humble ourselves before him and simply trust him!

Mark A. Haefner



Voters' Meeting Summary

Pastor's Report:

Attendance at the Greene House Bible Study has grown. There are six people who have attended at least once.

We have no one in Adult Bible Information class at the present time. Taylor Richert is completing her first year of Catechism through Trinity School.

Pastor Haefner is considering offering an evening Bible Study some time over the summer. It is entitled "From Sinai to Calvary." Let him know if you are interested.

Membership:

Our membership stands at 49 communicant members and 61 baptized members.

Elder/Trustees:

The Haefners thank the congregation for the new kitchen flooring. It is a great improvement to the parsonage.

Building Committee:

Birthdays

5-10 Randy Vogt
5-11 Herman Schmidt
5-13 Chuck Oltman
5-18 Jane Haefner
5-20 Matthew Willems
5-26 Kathleen Goodrich

7-3 Joe Caldwell
7-4 Teresa Dredge
7-10 Alison Otte
7-16 Krista Vogt
7-21 Ava Richert

7-26 Stella Bridges

Anniversaries

6-12 Randy & Bonnie Vogt
6-26 Pastor & Jane Haefner
6-28 Keith & Vada Schleusener

7-21 Tom & Alison Otte

Congratulations

(Continued on page 2)

**Treasurer's Report
1st Quarter 2010**

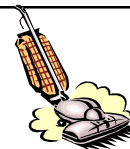
Beginning Balance:	32,553.60
Offerings:	<u>45,367.04</u>
Total	77,920.64
Expenses:	
Salary	4,479 .00
Ins & Tax	2,430.39
Maintenance	1,030.51
Misc.	202.23
Office	1,011.44
Utilities	1,636.86
Ministry	776.03
Worship	181.42
Special (NELHS)	5,000.00
Special (WELS)	2,000.00
Insurance	1,677.00
Pension	456.00
To Building Fund	<u>21,866.00</u>
Total	42,746.88
Designated funds:	
WELS	5,790.70
NELHS	4,402.01
Trinity	<u>8,237.01</u>
Total	18,429.72
Total Expense	<u>61,276.60</u>
Balance (less Building)	26,589.00
Building Fund balances	
In CD's	362,220.31
At NELHS	104,297.29
In Checking	10,114.00
In Savings	<u>246,947.37</u>
Total	750,267.97

WELS 2010 Commitment:
8,000.00, 62% of our yearly commitment was met,

NELHS 2010 Commitment was
8,000.00 divided 75% to Operating
25% to BFC. 45% of our yearly
commitment was met.



Cleaning and Ushering Lists



Cleaning

May 2-9 Fickel; May 16-June 6 Goodrich
June 13-20 Kratochvil; June 27-July 4 Keith Richert
July 11-18 Anna Richert; July 25-Aug 1 Fickel

Ushering

May	Nathan Schleusener
June	Tom Otte
July	Curtis Rathjen



(Continued from page 1)

Our architect, Kevin Clark, is no longer with Sinclair Hille; however, arrangements have been made that he can still do some work on the project with us.

Kiewit provided a guaranteed maximum price of 1.269 million for the building. This will not include the sound system, or reupholstering the pews. They project December 8, 2010 as the completion date.

There was discussion as to whether or not to pave the parking lot. The city would require us to do this within about two years. It would be an additional cost. The general feeling was to pave it now as doing so would probably save us money in the long run.

A decision will need to be made about the style of windows. Right now they are rectangle shaped. We are getting pricing on a change to a gothic style for the chapel area.

Evangelism:

Twenty-eight visits were made in Seward in the first quarter. Of those fifteen families were churched and thirteen were unchurched. Six visits were made in Utica, all were churched.

If someone new moves in near you, let Gordon, Keith S. or Pastor

know and we will stop in to visit them, or we can provide you with information to share with them.

Education:

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

NELHS:

NELHS Students performed very well in speech this year. Twelve qualified to compete at the State meet.

The 30th anniversary offering stands at about 215,000.00.

Two NELHS Students, one from Thailand and one from Texas, were confirmed this February.

Fifteen seniors will be graduating in May. So far there are 13 freshmen who have applied for next year. Association congregations are urged to encourage (and help if necessary) more of the thirty three 8th graders in Association grade schools to attend NELHS.

Trinity:

A kindergarten round up was held in April, as well as the school plays.

The upper graders will travel to Wisconsin to visit Luther Prep,

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Hope School, the Seminary, and attend a Brewers game.

Graduation will be May 16 at 6:00 PM at Bethel.

WELS:

We need a delegate to represent us at the District convention June 14-16. Nathan Schleusener and Bruce Burger will check their schedules. Pastor Frank will be retiring after this convention so a new District President will be elected during the convention.

The new "Chapel of the Christ" on the Martin Luther College campus was dedicated April 11. The dedication service, daily chapel services and concerts are available on www.mlc-wels.net.

Other Business

There was discussion about the sale of our current building. It was decided that the Trustees would handle this. Parties who have expressed some interest are, The Dental Clinic-Dr. Minchow, Pat Coldiron and the Chamber of Commerce, and Holly Soukup. One of the Trustees will check into the county appraisal to help determine an asking price.



We now have personal assisted listening devices available. 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 an usher or elder for help.

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

2010 Nebraska Lutheran Multi-Sports Camp

Boys and Girls entering grades 5th through 9th are invited

\$65 On Campus Rate (includes 8 meals, lodging, awards, and t-shirt)

\$50 Off Campus Rate (students not staying in the dorm)

Nebraska Lutheran High School invites you to join in the fun at our annual multi-sports camp. Last year was the second time we tried a format with three different sports and the feedback has been very positive. We are very excited to host this camp again and know you will enjoy the experience. Campers should plan to arrive around **6:30 pm Sunday evening, May 23rd**. The first session will start Sunday night at 7:00 pm with basketball. The sessions Monday through Wednesday will be either basketball or volleyball for the girls and basketball or football for the boys. During the sessions we will break down and teach many skills using a variety of drills and competitions. During the week we also have some other fun activities planned. Towards the end of camp,

scrimmages will take place where the players will put to the practice the skills they've learned. On Wednesday, the last day of camp, there will be an awards ceremony which all parents are welcome to attend. This will take place at **4:00pm** in the student union. Several awards and trophies will be presented at this time. The camp will be an all-around camp stressing the development of fundamentals, good techniques, team play, and improvement in other sports related areas. Overall we hope the campers gain confidence in the areas they are strong in and strengthen themselves in the areas where they are weak. Our goal is always to teach and improve on previously learned concepts of the game. The camp is open to students entering **5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade**. The cost for the camp is **\$65** for on campus campers or **\$50** for off campus (commuter) campers not staying in the dorm. Please send in your payment ahead of time with the registration form. The cost of the camp will

Dates to Remember

- 4-29/30/5-2 NELHS Musical
- 5-13 Joint Ascension at Grace
- 5-14 NELHS Concert, Pre-grad
- 5-15 NELHS Graduation
- 5-16 Trinity Graduation at Bethel
- 5-23 NELHS Sports Camp Starts
- 6-7 VBS at Bethel
- 6-14 District Convention Starts
- 6-20 Youth Valentine Canoe Trip



include meals, lodging, awards, and a camp T-shirt. The camp will be conducted by the coaches on the Nebraska Lutheran staff with possible clinicians from around the area. High school students will also assist and help during the duration of the camp.

If you decide to complete and return the form on the other side of this sheet, a follow-up email will be sent to confirm your registration.

Please send in your registration no later than Friday, May 14th.

Please make checks payable to **Nebraska Lutheran High School.**

A parental-permission form (sent to you in the follow-up email) will also need to be signed in order to attend the camp.

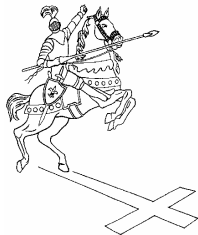
If you have any questions about the camp or Nebraska Lutheran High School in general please feel free to contact Matt Willems via email at mwillems@nelhs.org.

This is a great opportunity to improve your skills in multiple sports, experience what dorm life is like at NELHS, and have some great fun through it all! We hope you can attend our multi-sports camp this summer and look forward to seeing you on campus.

It has been a privilege and blessing to work with so many wonderful athletes in the past and we would all love to work with you this summer. Have a great rest of the school year and see you soon!

Sincerely,

Matt Willems, Camp Director



Ascension is May 13 this year. There will be a joint service for Bethel and Grace congregations, and NELHS students who wish to come, at Grace in Seward. The service will be at 7:00 PM.

NELHS Update

On April 25 the NEHLS Association meeting resumed discussion of the 2010-2011 budget.

The NELHS Board had suggested that the eight regions of the NELHS Association be asked to come up with \$500.00 per student from their region attending NELHS and that each association congregation raise their NELHS commitment by \$5.00 per communicant. This would be for the coming budget year. If this did not seem feasible more cuts in staff would have to be made.

There was a lot of good discussion. Some who spoke were alumni of NELHS. It was evident that people care deeply about NELHS and about the blessing of offering Christian Secondary education to our high school age youth.

A motion was made that we balance the budget in a way other than cutting more staff. This motion passed 28-14.

Discussion continued about how

to increase revenue to balance the budget. The Board's suggestion was put in the form of a motion. It was defeated 25-17.

After more discussion a motion was made to raise tuition by \$300.00 with the encouragement that congregations try to help offset this increase for their students, and that association congregations be strongly encouraged to raise their commitments by 10.00 per communicant. This motion passed 28-14.

There was no "perfect" solution to balancing the budget. The bottom line is that every Christian prayerfully consider the blessings that God has given them, physical and spiritual. Then, in view of God's mercy, bring their offerings to support God's work. God promises that when we do this there will be plenty of resources to do the things that he asks us to do.

Continue to pray that God helps us to support NELHS to the best of our ability so that students can continue to hear the word of God in all their High School classes; that teachers would not have to continue to do more work for less pay; and that we can make progress on paying down the debt incurred in building the wonderful facility we have.