

Grace News

Volume 8, Number 3

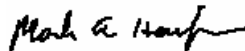
Third Quarter '09

Isaiah 8:19 (NIV) *When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? 20 **To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.***

“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”, “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word.” We love to sing those hymns, especially on Reformation. What a blessing of God’s grace that our congregation and our Synod still turn to God’s word for answers and for guidance! The temptation is always there to do otherwise. The temptation is always there to give in to political correctness as some congregations and church bodies are doing in the areas of abortion and homosexuality. The temptation is always there for us to buy “how to” books from the store, or call up our friends for their opinions instead of searching the Scriptures first for help when we have a problem.

In the troubled times in which we live, we need to remember that any advice we are given that contradicts what God’s word says has no light of day. We need to pray daily that God would keep us steadfast in his word. It is only in God’s word that we can learn the truth about ourselves and how much we deserve God’s wrath and punishment. It is only in God’s word that we can learn the truth about God— that he loved us so much, in spite of our sins, that he sent his Son to live and die in our place. Jesus has risen. He accomplished his mission. Our sins have all been paid for.

When you are troubled or worried or searching for answers, remember to inquire of God. Only he can and will tell you the truth.



Voters’ Meeting Summary

Pastor’s Report:

Although we now only have one member in the Ridgewood homes, attendance at our now twice a month meditations is averaging about 30.

The discussion about offering an unassigned graduate from MLC or the Seminary an opportunity to do “tent ministry” at Grace and Bethel was tabled. We could not think of any jobs that would be available in the community.

If we are in the process of building on the Pinewood property next July 4th, we might consider doing something there; possibly inflatables like they have at the NELHS pre-grad party.

Membership:

Our current membership is 59 baptized members and 48 communicant members. Matt Willems and Sarah Caldwell and children Kenyon and Rebecca were received into membership by transfer. The confirmations of Brogan Dredge and Abbey Kuhl were ratified by the voters. Since our meeting,

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Birthdays

8-7 Martin Winterfeld
8-13 Pastor Haefner
Karma Richert
8-14 Carol Kratochvil
8-18 Taylor Richert
8-31 Elvyna Fickel

9-4 Keith Schleusener
9-21 Jane M. Aulenback
9-23 Jane Aulenback

10-6 Gordon Schlechte
10-8 Allen Plautz

10-13 Lois Burger
10-24 Thomas Otte
10-27 Regan Fickel
10-29 Martin Otte

Anniversaries

8-5 Armand and Zoe Richert
8-11 Clint and Karma Richert
8-13 Gerald and Elvyna Fickel
8-14 Keith and Kristie Richert

9-20 Kent and Terri Fickel

10-6 Gordon and Kathy Schlechte

Treasurer's Report 2nd Quarter 2009

Beginning Balance:	5,207.04
Offerings:	<u>43,268.31</u>
Total	48,475.35

Expenses:	
Salary	4,380.00
Ins & Tax	748.25
Maintenance	1,482.25
Office	652.29
Phone	182.69
Utilities	462.55
Ministry	750.10
Worship	280.45
Expenses	351.50
Insurance	1,821.00
Pension	438.00
To Building Fund	<u>12,501.24</u>
Total	24,050.32

Designated funds:	
WELS Synod Budget	3,975.00
WELS Special	2,100.00
NELHS Budget	2,055.00
Trinity	4,575.00
Synod Special(LATTE)	<u>300.00</u>
Total	13,005.00

Total Expense	<u>37,055.32</u>
New Balance	12,237.88

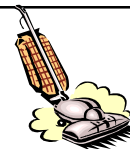
Building Fund balances	
In CD's	355,941.91
At NELHS	104,297.29
In Checking	5,495.42
In Savings	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total	477,734.62

WELS Commitment: 7,500.00,
102% of our yearly commitment
has been met.

NELHS Commitment this year is
7,000.00 divided 75% to Operating
25% to BFC. 48% of our yearly
commitment has been met.



Cleaning and Ushering Lists



Cleaning

Aug 9-16 Armand Richert, 23-30 K. Richert
Sept 6-13 Ridpath, 20-27 Schlechte
Oct 4-11 Schleusener, 18-25 Vogt

Ushering

Aug	Ridpath
Sept	Fickel
Oct	K. Schleusener



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Mrs. Kathleen Goodrich has notified us that she will be transferring her membership to Grace. Welcome!

Elder/Trustees:

We are thankful that Curtis Rathjen has volunteered to take over the mowing of the Pinewood property. It looks great, Curtis. Thanks!

It was noted that some water leaked into the church basement during one of the June storms.

Building Committee:

The building committee is meeting frequently with the architect to add detail to our plans. The committee is also interviewing builders (Kewit and Kingery). They hope to make a recommendation soon.

Bills from the architect are coming in and other funds may be needed for pre-construction work. A savings account has been opened to hold money from CD's that mature and to receive offerings to the building fund so that this money is available when needed.

Evangelism:

A total of 40 calls were made in

Seward during the quarter, of those 20 were churched and 20 were unchurched. Don't forget, as Christians we are all witnesses. Invite your friends and neighbors to worship with you. Also, if you know of someone our committee could call on, let us know.

Education:

VBS will be held August 1 from 9 AM to 11:30 AM.

Sunday School classes will resume September 13. If you would like to help teach, speak with Tom Otte.

NELHS:

The special anniversary debt reduction drive started on March 22, and has a goal of 300,000.00 that will go to eliminate bank debt. As of the meeting over 100,000.00 had been received. The drive will continue through Thanksgiving.

Low enrollment is expected in the fall due to very small 8th grade classes throughout the association and a large NELHS graduating class. Expected enrollment is about 70 students. Four of the 2009 NELHS graduates have enrolled at MLC.

Two tutors were assigned to

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NELHS, Benjamin Wells from MLC (a former NELHS student from Plymouth), and Nathaniel Biebert from the Seminary.

The second annual NELHS Golf Classic was held on July 25 to help raise money for tuition assistance.

Trinity:

Trinity had two graduates this year, Elizabeth Homp and Julia Owen. Trinity is expecting an enrollment of 22 children in the fall. New families are the Oblenders and the Prigges.

New doors and flooring have been installed. A generous special gift allowed the installation of the tile to be hired out.

As usually is the case, Trinity's funds are very low during the summer. At the time of this writing it is expected that some of the supplemental fund will have to be used to pay salaries and more offerings are needed to help pay utilities and other bills.

Trinity is planning to receive a student teacher from MLC again this year.

WELS:

The Synod convention runs from July 26—31 in Saginaw, MI. You can follow the proceedings at www.wels.net/convention.

Other Business

Motions were made and approved to increase what we pay to guest speakers to 50.00 plus mileage, and to raise what we pay our organists to 10.00 a service.

July 4th

Thanks again to all who helped with our booth. We made a positive impression with a lot of people and handed out a lot of tracts and brochures. May God use our efforts to His glory.

Latest from NELHS:

Our debt drive now stands at \$110,238.04. We have received a total of 221 gifts toward our drive at this point.

Our External Relations committee of the Board will be meeting this evening to distribute tuition assistance to those families that have requested it. God has blessed us with the ability to have over \$22,000 available for disbursement this year.

32 golfers participated in our "Tee it Up" for Tuition Assistance golf tournament last Saturday. It raised over \$4,000 for tuition assistance this year.

Enrollment of students continues to be a concern for next year. Presently there are 64 students enrolled. Retention should be above 90%.

Church Council

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

Building Committee:
Armand Richert
Keith Richert
Allen Plautz

Evangelists:
Keith Schleusener
Gordon Schlechte



The LWMS Fall Rally for our area will be held on October 24th in Hastings. Watch your boxes for a flier with more information as we get closer to the date.

The LWMS has an updated web site. The address is www.wels.net/cgi-bin/site.pl?indexLWMS

Mission Festival

Richard Owen III will be our Mission Festival speaker this year. He is a student at MLC, a member of Bethel, who spent his summer doing outreach work in Des Moines, IA.

The date for mission festival will be September 13 at 4:00 PM. The usual wonderful pot luck will follow the service and presentation.

Dates to Remember

- 8-8 Trinity Clean Up Day
- 8-9/13 Pastor At Class in CO
- 8-16 NELHS Camp Week Begins
- 8-23 NELHS Opening service
- 8-24 Trinity Opening service

- 9-3/4 NELHS Homecoming
- 9-13 Sunday school resumes
- 9-13 Mission Fest at Grace
- 9-25 NELHS Soccer Jamboree

- 10-5/7 NELHS Fall Break
- 10-18 NELHS Silent Auction
- 10-18 NELHS Fall Concert
- 10-24 LES Volley Ball Tourney
- 10-24 LWMS Rally Hastings



Synod Convention

As you may remember from the pre-synod convention "Together" newsletter, the convention had to find a way to cut 8 million dollars from the Synod budget. Initial proposals included cutting 1 million either from missions or from parish schools. Neither of those choices seemed good to the delegates or committee #4. A third option was developed and accepted. The summary from the WELS convention web site follows:

"Delegates have adopted a resolution of the Finance and Budget Floor Committee for the 2009-11 biennium, which provides enough funding for Ministerial Education to retain WELS' present three-tier, four-school system as contained in the Synodical Council's proposed budget Option A.

The resolution also keeps funding for the Boards for Home and World Missions at the same level as the proposed budget Option B so that no further missionary cuts are needed.

Instead, the budgets of Communications, Financial Services, Technology, the Congregational Resource Team within Parish Services, Mission Counselors, and corporate travel expenses will be cut by a total of \$1 million."

Much more information including video and full reports are available at www.wels.net/convention.

Continue to pray that the Lord will open our hearts to continue to provide funding so that we can work together to train and send out workers into God's harvest field.



Here is the latest floor plan revision for the new building. It is slightly downsized from earlier versions in the narthex and fellowship areas to keep the building within budget. Please share any comments or suggestions with members of the building committee. Larger copies are available from the committee for anyone who would like to see them.

