




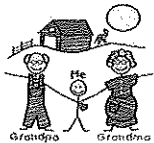


Northwest Hills Church
9334 Fort Street, Omaha NE 68134
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Alex Wolf, Pastor
 Suzy Parsons, Director of Christian Education
 Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 48 No. 9
 August 24, 2020

Barb Renicker, Choir Director
 Ruth Negus, Organist and Accompanist
 Sarah Baird, Nursery Attendant
 Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

September 2020

September 6 	9:30 a.m. In Person Worship Service/Communion 1-4 Chin Church
September 13 Newsletter Deadline Happy Grandparents Day!! 	9:30 a.m. In Person Worship Service 1-4 Chin Church
September 20 	9:30 a.m. In Person Worship Service 1-4 Chin Church
September 27 	9:30 a.m. In Person Worship Service 1-4 Chin Church

Greetings Northwest Hills Church family!

We are excited to be starting up Northwest Hills Preschool, and starting up our Wednesday morning Bible studies this month! Thank you for your patience as we work through the process of opening up the church building for worship services. We will continue to request the wearing of face masks and social distancing, as well as ushers helping to seat and dismiss those attending worship services.

We will continue to have the children remain with parents or guardians during the Children's Message, and no Sunday School to limit exposure. Offering trays will not be passed, but instead a single basket for offerings will be placed at the sanctuary entrance. Fellowship time within the Commons will be limited but instead worshippers are encouraged to gather outside the church to visit after the services. At the present there will not be gatherings or sharing of food in the Fellowship Hall. As anything new develops, we will be sure to contact you! Happy Autumn!

With Christ's Love & Blessings,

Pastor Alex, Suzy, Cheryl

Deadline for articles/information for the monthly newsletter is usually the second Sunday for the next month's newsletter. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

MEETING UPDATES

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Thursday, Sept. 10th at 7:00 PM in the Commons.

MEN'S MINISTRY First Saturday Breakfasts postponed until further notice.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Meetings will be cancelled until March 2021 due to the concerns of COVID19. We ask that you continue to support the various Mission Projects still in process at the Church. Thank you for paying dues the remainder of the year, even though we are not meeting. This is to prepare for the year ahead. Thank you! God bless you all!
— Kathleen Hammond

CIRCLES

Hannah Circle: Now through December, by vote of the members of Hannah Circle, we will NOT meet for the rest of 2020 due to COVID-19. We hope to start up again on Tuesday, March 16th, 2021. Any questions, please call Lois Gapen, 402-572-6792.

Ruth Circle Will not be meeting in September. Questions? Call Ginger Morelock, 402-312-5126.

Sarah Circle will meet Tuesday, September 8th in the COMMONS. Please call Terri Burrigat at (402) 659-6913 if you have questions.

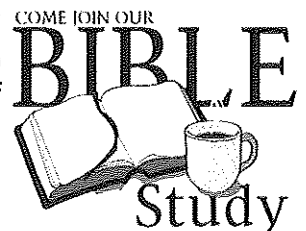
CRAFT NIGHTS are postponed until next year.
Should have any questions, please feel free to call Sherry Mitchell at 402-498-3597.

The 2020 Craft Fair

After speaking with the leadership of all the groups involved in the Craft Fair, we are deciding to cancel the Fair for 2020. Without the ability to do the luncheon or the bake sale, it was considered best not to go on with the annual Craft Fair. We do this as a precaution to protect our church members and general public. Your efforts that you extend for the Craft Fair each year and your continued support are so greatly appreciated and valued. Asking God's blessings and protection on each of you.
—Kathleen Hammond

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES!

Looking forward to seeing everyone as we ease back into our small group get-togethers. We will resume the Wednesday morning, 10:00 AM Bible Study on Wednesday, September 16th. Our location will now be the Sanctuary (rather than the Library) so that we can maintain safe social distancing. It will be great to gather around the Word of God in fellowship!



TRUNK OR TREAT: For October we are hoping to have a Trunk or Treat for Halloween the last Sunday in October (the 25th) as long as Covid doesn't cancel Halloween. It will be in our front parking lot between 4 to 6pm. Before we can move forward we need to know how many people are willing to decorate their trunks for this event. We will need a minimum of ten "trunks" to make this event successful. Please contact the Mission & Service Chair, Kathy Caito, via phone or text at 402-203-1028 by October 1st if you are willing to participate. We will collect candy during October and if the event is cancelled, donate the candy to the Open Door Mission.

WOMEN'S ASSOC. DUES: Due to the lack of events this year, the Women's Association would like to remind members to submit their 2020 \$10 dues. The Women's Association Dues can be sent to Lois Gapen or Judy Cratty, or dropped off at the Church office. Please make sure to mark as "2020 Women's Association Dues" for proper designation. Thank you in advance!

HY-VEE RECEIPTS!

We are now in the season of collecting HyVee receipts dated September 1st through December 31, 2020! Every year we collect HyVee receipts during the fall/winter. In the first week of January, the totals are tabulated and the Northwest Hills Preschool gets a check from HyVee for a percentage of all sales! Woohoo! So please save those HyVee receipts starting this month to bless our little ones! A collection basket is in the Commons! Thank you!

Northwest Hills Preschool

Sprout, Bloom, Grow

Preschool is set to kick off on Tuesday Sept. 8. We are excited for the new preschool year. We have some of the kids returning from last year along with some new families joining us. We will spend the first month getting acquainted and getting used to following rules and playing with other children. Our September themes are Back to School, All About Me, Friends, and Families. We still have a few openings!! If you know of anyone looking for a great preschool, let them know about us!!



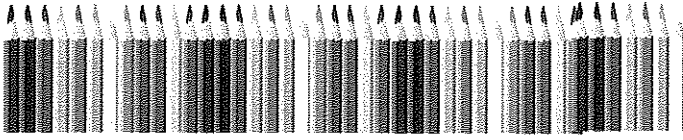
PK-5th Grade & EPIC Youth

All activities have been suspended at this time. Stay tuned for activities to resume at a later date.

Since we can't meet for Sunday School yet, there are four more (one each week) activities to try in this newsletter! Let me know how they turn out...send me a picture at suzy@northwesthills.com. Thanks!

**Mission & Service
September Collection
Art Therapy Studio
Lydia House**

Church family: we have a fabulous opportunity to help the Lydia House build a new therapy section of their campus: an Art Therapy Studio!



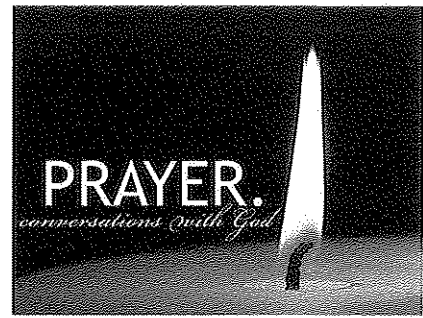
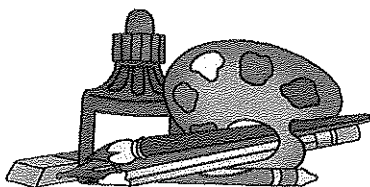
The needs are great starting up this new venture, so please don't be overwhelmed. This is just a comprehensive list of everything needed: if we can just provide a few of these items, it will be greatly appreciated. Questions? See Kathy Caito, Mission & Service Chair.

PAINT: Paint palettes, acrylic/watercolor paints, bristle and silk paint brushes, canvas, cups, standing and table top easels, jumbo roll of craft paper, sketchpads.

DRAWING: Small and large white drawing paper, colored construction paper, watercolor and tracing paper, contact paper, small and big markers, crayons, colored pencils, graphite pencils, paint sticks, pink erasers, kneaded (putty rubber) erasers, gum erasers, electric pencil sharpener, chalk pastels, oil pastels (Brand: Craypas), textured rubbing plates, self-healing cutting mat

COLLAGE/MIXED MEDIA: Adult scissors, exacto knives, glue sticks, glue bottles and refill jugs, hot glue gun and sticks, modpodge, magazines, yarn, string, embroidery hoops, embroidery floss, cloth, sewing needles, jewelry wire, paper mâché masks and paper mâché, cheese cloth, plastic face molds, model magic, clay sculpting tools, play dough and play dough toys, alcohol inks, matboards, recycles objects/containers (boxes, cartons, bottles, etc.)

GENERAL: Aprons (child/adult), paper towels, cleaning supplies, GooGone, large mixing bowls, non-latex gloves, storage containers (various sizes), Drying racks for sculptures/clay and painting/drawings



Prayer chain requests can be called to Lois Gapen at (402) 572-6792 or the church office at (402) 572-8392.

Thank you for your kind responses regarding updating our prayer list. We were pleased to hear several that were much improved. Please continue to let us know of any changes so that we can update our list and assure that the prayers going out weekly are the most current and urgent needs expressed. Thank you in advance. The ongoing list is below:

Continued Prayer Requests: Dirk Huston (Janet Delehoy's nephew), Nancy Norton (friend of Carol Scott), Bob Gardner (Janet Delehoy's daughter's, friend), Andrew & Michael Guillems (Bev Ambrosius' nephews), Sandy Christopherson, Al Cummings (Janet Delehoy's brother), Sharon Marchese (Kathleen Hammond's sister), Carol Scott, Lynn Hammond, Drew Botsakos, Kathleen Hammond, Mary LaHood, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Barb Karstens, Jackie Andis

On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Patricia Gename (Mary Hinman's daughter), Sharon Kirby (Janet Delehoy's sister-in-law), Dick McCoy, Gail Schroeder, Pam Dutton, Dave Merriam, Sue Day, Robert Baker, Evelyn Walton, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Judy Intlekofer, Bill Owens, Pam Burright, Marvin Schoonover (Pat Mollak's brother), Ken Lemons (Jim Lemons' son), Coleen Vincent



FROM PASTOR ALEX WOLF

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Well, the hits just keep coming, don't they? As we continue to deal with all the issues of this year, we are all exhausted. And we don't have our usual escapes to soothe our frustration (like no Nebraska Husker football or volleyball this Fall). The COVID-19 pandemic continues and we still aren't sure an end is in sight. Six months into this unusual season and we still don't know what tomorrow brings. I don't know about you, but I sometimes become afraid we'll never get out of this.

But let us not let fear drive our lives. The most common command in the Bible is "do not be afraid," written 365 times. That's a daily reminder from God to live everyday fearless, trusting God is still in control. According to my old professor, Mark Krause, in his commencement address to the 2020 graduating class of Nebraska Christian College, the second most common command in the Bible is "remember," written 247 times. I believe these two commands go hand in hand. How do we overcome our fear? We no longer fear because we remember.

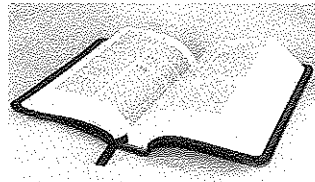
After the Exodus event and before they entered the promised land of Canaan, the Lord commanded the Israelites through Moses to "remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years..." (Deuteronomy 8:2). The Israelites had much fear and trepidation as they prepared to enter the land of Canaan, but the Lord told them to *remember* how he had been with them, rescued them from slavery in Egypt, and watched over them and provided for them. And if they remembered how the Lord guided them then, they do not need to be afraid that God would abandon them now. The Israelites were to *remember* what the Lord did for them every year through the Passover celebration. Through remembering, the Israelites were not afraid but trusted in God.

In a similar way, Jesus took the bread and the cup of the Passover meal and made them symbols for us to "remember" the significance of his death (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Whenever we eat the bread and drink the cup, we *remember* God's love for us shown in Jesus. When we gather on Sunday mornings, we *remember* Jesus' resurrection and his victory over the grave. We can be confident going forward because we remember the past.

Whatever difficult circumstance we face, whether its COVID-19, loss of a job, death of a loved one, or simply the uncertainty of what comes next, may we not be afraid because we remember how God has been faithful in the past and God's Spirit is with us and is faithful to us now. Let us not be afraid by remembering.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Alex



Sermon Topics and Scriptures For the Month of September

Exodus: Journey with God Fall 2020 Sermon Series

The second part in a narrative series takes the plot into deeper themes and often includes a major event that changes everything going forward. The book of Exodus continues the story of Abraham's descendants in Egypt, now threatened by an evil Pharaoh. A man named Moses has been called by God to lead God's people to freedom. The book of Exodus is a story for the ages.

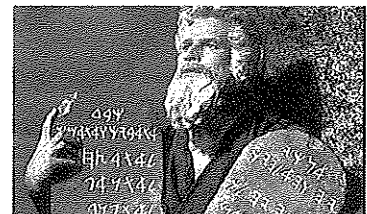
August 30: Exodus 1:6-2:10 "A New Threat"

September 6: Exodus 2:11-25 "Moses on the Run"

September 13: Guest Speaker

September 20: Exodus 3:1-17 "Burning Bushes and Bare Feet"

September 27: Exodus 5:1-21 "Going from Bad to Worse"



VERSE OF THE MONTH

"As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20

PETER & JOHN (Acts 4:1-22)

Peter and John saw a man who was lame begging for money outside the temple. It was the only way the man had to meet his needs. Peter didn't give him money. Instead, he healed the man in Jesus' name! The council leaders didn't want Peter and John talking about the Resurrection or healing in Jesus' name. So they put them in prison. The crowd, who had seen the lame walking and thanking God, were praising God for the Miracle. The council let Peter and John go with a warning to stop talking about Jesus. Peter told them, "We can't stop talking about what we have seen and heard!"

What Do You Think?

How did Jesus feel about people in need? Did he help them?

How do you think the man that was healed felt when he stood for the first time?

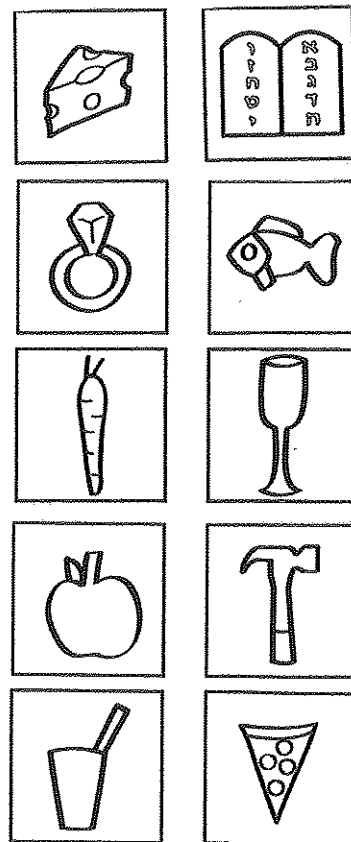
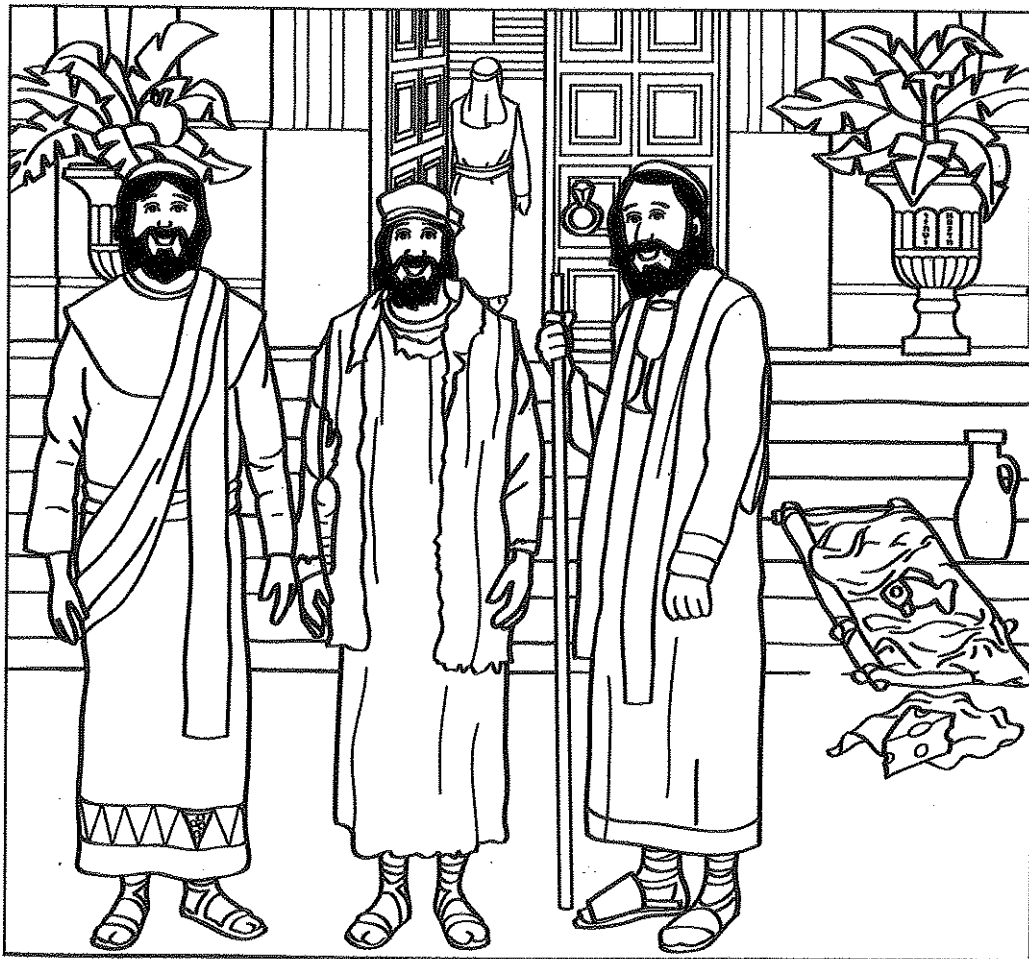
FAMILY ACTIVITY

Talk about how you as a family can help people in need without giving money. What do you have that you can share? Do you have a local nonprofit organization that helps people in need? Does your church have a program to help people in need? Think about ways you can help these programs.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for caring about people in need. Help us find ways we can show your love to others. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Hidden Pictures (puzzle). On the way to the temple, Peter and John healed a man who couldn't walk. Look carefully at the picture and find the 10 hidden items. Circle them.



VERSE OF THE MONTH

"As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20

PETER in PRISON (Acts 12:1-17)

King Herod didn't like the disciples talking about Jesus, so he started bullying the church leaders. He threw Peter in jail. But the church was together, praying for Peter. An angel came to Peter in the night and helped him escape. Peter went to the house where the church was praying. When he knocked on the gate, a servant named Rhoda answered. She was so excited that she forgot to open the gate! The church came out to see Peter, and he told them about the angel helping him escape. Peter told the church to share how God had taken care of him and keep praying. Then Peter left to continue sharing the good news.

What Do You Think?

Peter thought the angel was a dream at first. How do you think he felt when he realized he was free? How would you have felt if you had been with the church praying when Peter showed up?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Talk about how we can pray to God, and God hears and answers our prayers. What do you want to pray about? Share these things with your family, and pray for these things together.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for listening to our prayers and answering. Help us listen carefully for your answers. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Story Chain (puzzle). King Herod didn't want Peter talking about Jesus, so he threw Peter in jail. Cut out the four strips. Put them in order of the story. Then connect them as a paper chain.

An angel helped Peter escape
from the prison.

Peter went and told the church
about his escape.

King Herod put Peter in jail
for talking about Jesus.

The church met together
to pray for Peter.

VERSE OF THE MONTH

"As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20

PAUL is CHANGED (Acts 9:1-19)

A man named Saul had made it his mission to throw in jail all the people who believed in Jesus. He was very cruel to the church. One day on his way to Damascus, a bright light shone down on him. Saul fell to his knees. Then a voice from heaven said, "Saul, why are you bullying me?" Saul realized that Jesus was talking to him. The men with him helped him to Damascus, because Saul was blind. God told a man named Ananias, who loved God, to go help Saul. Ananias obeyed God. Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit, and his sight was restored.

What Do You Think?

How do you think Saul felt when Jesus, the person he had been bullying, spoke to him?
How do you think Ananias felt when God told him to go help Saul?

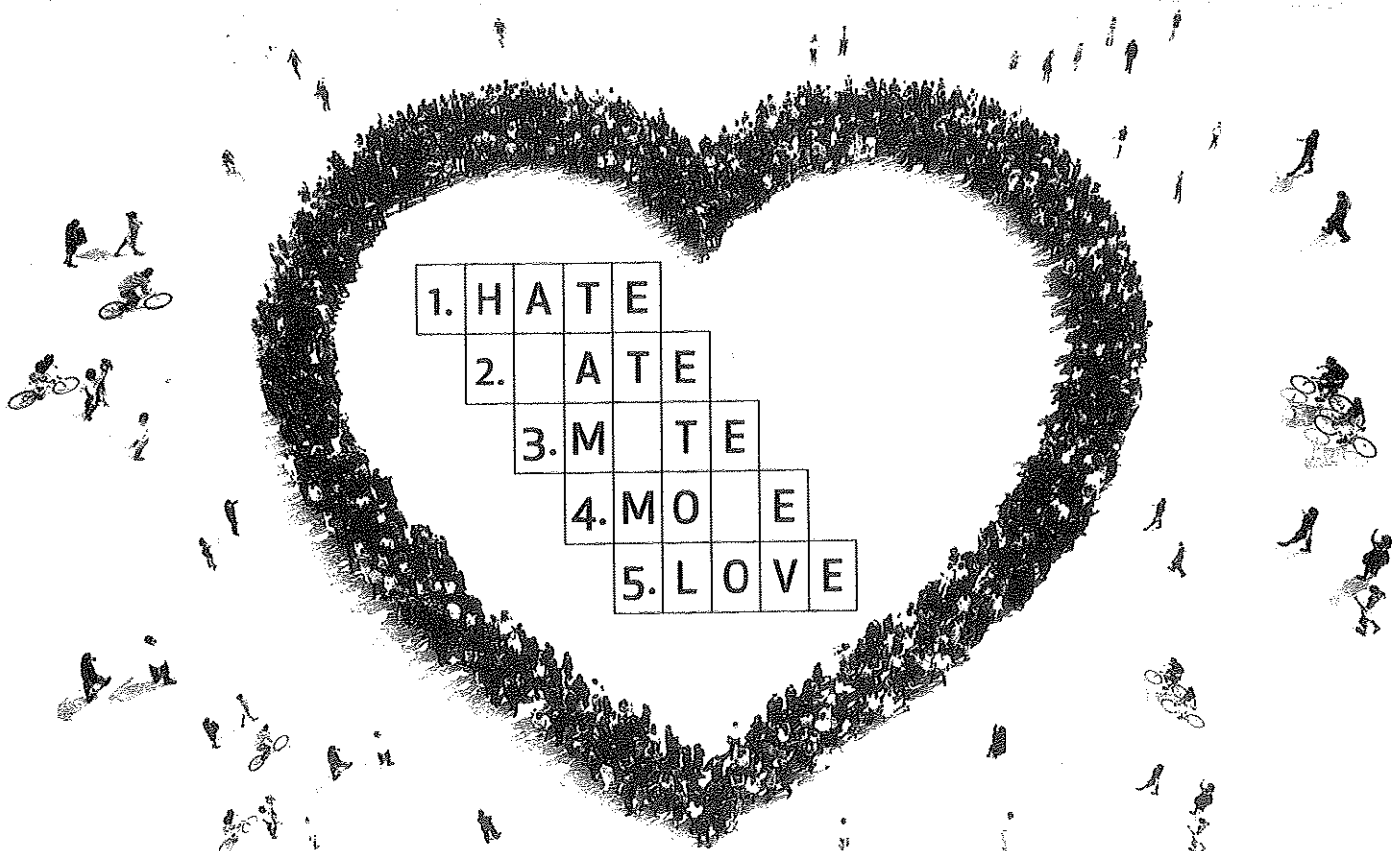
FAMILY ACTIVITY

Talk about how Saul's life totally changed when Jesus spoke to him. Saul was given a new mission: take the good news to the Gentiles. How has knowing Jesus changed your life? What plans do you think God has for your family? Is there a special group of people you could share the good news with?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for loving us just the way we are. Show us what we can change in our lives to bring us closer to God. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Change Hate to Love (puzzle). Paul hated the followers of Jesus, and he was very cruel to them. But one day, Jesus spoke to him and everything changed. Change the word "hate" into the word "love." You can only change one letter at a time. Three of the letters will stay the same, and the empty box is the letter you need to change. **TIP;** For #3, read Matthew 7:3-5 in your Bible. The word for #3 is another way of saying the word "splinter" in Matthew.



VERSE OF THE MONTH

"As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20

PAUL ESCAPES (Acts 9:20-25)

God showed great love to Paul, and that love changed Paul's whole life. With the power of the Holy Spirit, Paul began to preach in the synagogues and share his good news. He told everyone that once he persecuted anyone who followed Jesus, because he had hate in his heart. But Jesus spoke to him, and that hate turned to love. He had a new mission, to share the good news of Jesus. But not everyone believed Paul had changed. Some even plotted to kill him. Paul's new friends helped him escape by lowering him in a basket to the outside of the city wall, and Paul kept preaching.

What Do You Think?

Do you think you would have believed that Paul had totally changed?

How can God change hate into love?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Talk about the change in Paul's life. Why do you think Jesus spoke to Paul when Paul was treating the church cruelly? What can you as a family do to show God's love to those around you? Make a list of ways to show love. Talk about the opportunities you have each day to show love to others.

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for loving us, even when we're not lovable. Show us how to love others like you love us. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

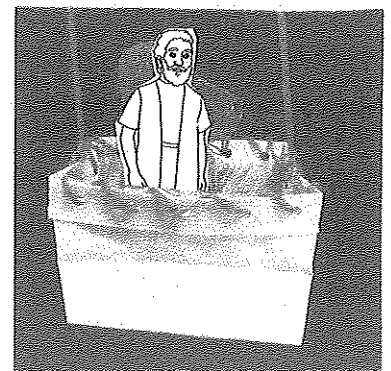
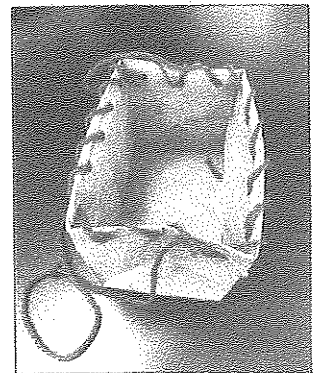
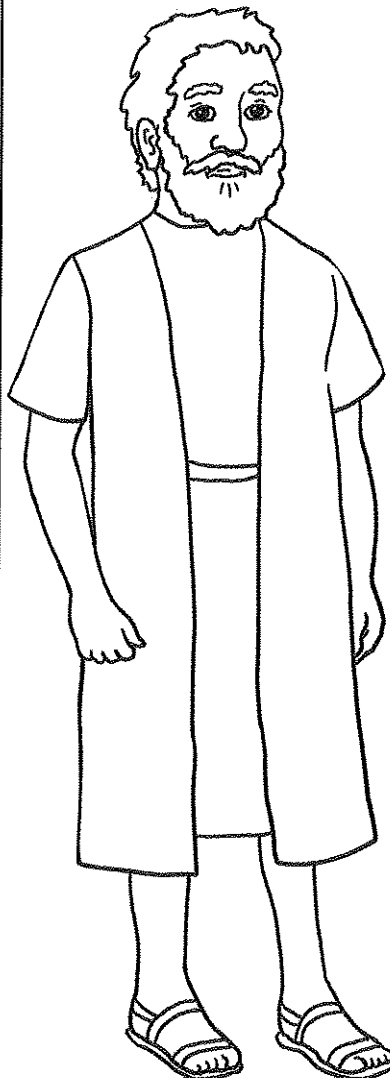
Basket for Paul (activity)

Materials:

- ∞ Paper lunch bags
- ∞ Yarn
- ∞ Single-hole punch
- ∞ Colors
- ∞ Markers
- ∞ Card stock

Directions:

- ∞ Set your paper lunch bag up.
- ∞ Cut about 1/3 of the bag off from the top, which is close to the opening.
- ∞ Fold about an inch down on the outside of the bag around the opening.
- ∞ Use a single-hole punch to punch out holes around the top on the folded down part.
- ∞ Thread yarn in and out of the holes around the bag.
- ∞ Tie the ends of a long piece of yarn to the middle of the two short sides.
- ∞ Cut out Paul on this page. Color him and place him in the basket.



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

SEPTEMBER		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Worship/Communion 1-4 Chin Church-S	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8 Preschool Starts 7:00 Sarah Circle, Commons 7:00 Scouts - FH	9	10 7 Church Council— Commons	11 6-7 Chin Church Practice	12
13 9:30 Worship-S 1-4 Chin Church-S GRANDPARENT'S DAY!	14	15 7:00 Scouts—FH	16 10 Bible Study In Sanctuary	17	18 6-7 Chin Church Practice	19
20 9:30 Worship-S 1-4 Chin Church-S	21	22 7:00 Scouts - FH	23 10 Bible Study In Sanctuary	24	25 6-7 Chin Church Practice 7:30 Auto Club-FH	26
27 9:30 Worship-S 1-4 Chin Church-S	28	29 7:00 Scouts—FH	30 10 Bible Study In Sanctuary		S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall	

**NORTHWEST HILLS CHURCH
9334 FORT STREET
OMAHA NE 68134**

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Cierra Ervin	7	Marlene Roberts	19	Sandi Woods
1	Ralph Hawkins	10	Maliha Standley	20	Piper Marxsen
1	Carrie Novak	10	Gwen Volmer	21	Donna Dean
2	Jerry Peck	11	Samantha Peck	21	Marti Elias
3	George Bilger	13	David Taylor	23	Gene Barnhill
5	Joyce Jacobsen	15	Paula Markuson	23	Jessi Buckley
6	Alexis Beberniss	17	Ashley Truckenbrod	24	Gerry Conry
6	Kimberley Wheels	18	Brad Beal	24	Bruce Cratty
7	Barbi Beberniss	18	Jacoby Granados	25	Chad Meador
7	Richard McCoy	18	Zoe Granados	26	Ruth Negus
7	Brad Nitsick	19	Wesley Bertch	27	Cheyenne Myers
7	Bill Parsons	19	Jo Morton	29	Collin Henkel

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Nate & Rita Merriam	9	Mike & Jessi Buckley	22	Ron & Nikki Heim
2	Dennis & Nancy Resset	9	Ernest & Judy Summers	25	Tim & Melissa Brusnahan
4	Matthew & Cindy Key	10	Mike & Jean McKimmey	28	Richard & Linda Stricker
4	Kevin & Juli Meador	10	Kevin & Heather Antoniak	30	Andy & Carrie Novak
6	John & Connie Anderson	10	Doug & Carla Dudley		
8	Jerry & Barb May	20	Gary & Annie Kuti		