

# THE EPISTLE

DECEMBER - 2022

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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## Forgive and Forget

*“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” -- Jeremiah 31:34*

The Bible makes it extremely clear that God knows everything. For example: “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13). This means that nothing has ever happened or ever will happen without his knowledge.

Do you understand that? God knows your every thought, word, and action. He knows everything in your past, he knows all about your present, and he even knows your future. He knows everything there is to know about everything.

That kind of knowledge is terrifying. Imagine how uncomfortable you would be if you had to interact with someone who knew all your secrets. Remember, on judgment day, you will have to stand in front of the all-knowing God. You can’t hide anything from him—he knows all your wickedness and your sins.

That is why this verse from Jeremiah chapter 31 is one of the most comforting passages in the entire Bible. **You have a God who doesn’t just forgive; he forgets.** He promises that the wicked things you are ashamed of and the secret sins that weigh you down have been so forgiven that he doesn’t even remember them anymore.

Yet how can the all-knowing God not only forgive your sins; but also forget them? It is not because he is forgetful, but because he remembered them all on his Son instead of you. When Jesus was on the cross, he endured all of God’s wrath for all of the sins of all of humanity.

So now the all-knowing God who knows all of your sins chooses to not remember them. What should God be angry about when he looks at your life? He doesn’t remember. Because Christ died for sin, that promise is kept.

And since God has forgotten your sin, you can too. Jesus has freed you from the burden of a guilty conscience. God buried your sins in the one place he never will look for them—in Jesus’ empty tomb.

### Prayer:

God the Father, thank you for forgetting my sins. God the Son, thank you for dying for them. God the Spirit, give me faith to remember that I am free from guilt. Amen.

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## **Sunday Coffee and Bible Study**

We have donuts or other treats during these Sunday mornings. The cost to supply these items has gone up significantly. Many times donations are not enough to cover what they cost. I have found ways to buy it when it's less expensive but it still costs more than pre-pandemic costs.

To make it more up to those participating what is served, the donations given will be used to buy the following weeks items. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Fellowship is donated by members of the Fellowship Group. The donations all go to the School Building Fund. Any extra money from the other Sundays is given to the School Building Fund with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday donations.

There will be some Sundays we have no donuts, etc. On those days, donated treats would be appreciated.

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## **LADIES AID**

The St. Paul's Ladies Aid met on November 3, 2022, at 1:30 PM.

The Kindergarten Class entertained.

Pastor Hirsch led the devotion.

President Carol Schlieve called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken. There were 9 members present.

The October minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer Carole Kopiez reported a balance of \$927.71.

Correspondence was read.

Reports given:

LWMS -- Carol Schlieve

Flower -- Marian Tinius

Kitchen -- Carol Wachter

A motion was made and seconded to give a Christmas Gift of \$250.00 to the School Building Fund in honor of the School Staff and Pastors. Motion carried.

A Birthday Card was signed to send to Ruth Uecker who will be 104 years old on November 23.

The next meeting will be a Christmas party and covered dish luncheon on December 1, 2022 at 12:00 noon.

Roll call will be "Favorite Christmas Carol".

Hostesses will be Dawn Miller, Marian Tinius, Carole Koptertz and Carol Wachter.

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

Carol Wachter,  
Ladies Aid Secretary

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

November 6 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

November 13 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

November 20 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

November 27 - In memory of Arlein Anderson, given by her family.

## MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

### ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST:

- In memory of Arlein Anderson (\$827)
- In memory of Alice Radenz (\$10)(\$25)(\$25)

### ST. PAUL'S MEDIA FUND:

- In memory of Arlein Anderson (\$25)

### ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL BUILDING FUND:

- In memory of Arlein Anderson (\$25)
- In memory of Alice Radenz (\$50)(\$25)(\$20)
- In memory of Pam Lurz (\$20)(\$20)
- In memory of Bill Miller (\$1,810)(\$20)

### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

- In memory of Alice Radenz (\$20)(\$150)(\$20)

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### Church Attendance:

Oct. 22 (56), Oct. 23 (135) = 191 (42%)

Oct. 29 (66), Oct. 30 (92+17 KRT Choir) = 180 (40%)

Nov. 5 (61), Nov. 6 (170) = 231 (51%)

Nov. 12 (53), Nov. 13 (125) = 178 (39%)

### Communion Attendance:

Nov. 5 & 6 = 139 (37%)

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Funerals: None

### Accepted into Membership by Profession of Faith:

10/23/22 Sue Beckman

**Transfer of Membership:**

10/23/22 Ashlee Plisek to Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church, Norfolk, NE

**Release of Membership:**

10/23/22 Cory & Angela Keating, Cecilea, & Hayden

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