

# THE EPISTLE

JANUARY - 2023

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

Office (402) 371-1233 / [stpls.office@gmail.com](mailto:stpls.office@gmail.com)

## The Joy of Giving

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." -- 2 Corinthians 9:6-9*

In the comparison that the apostle Paul uses of sowing seed, implied is the truth **that the sower would not have seed to sow if there had been no previous harvest. So, we would have no offerings to give if God had not blessed us with the money we have.** We are givers because God has given to us. And he gives us so much more than we can ever return to him! How can we ever give back to God a gift equal to salvation, an offering comparable to the peace of the forgiveness of sins, a donation that even comes close to the gift of his Son?

We don't just practice giving. We practice Christian giving. Christian giving involves our faith in the promises of God. God urges us to trust in his limitless ability to cause his blessings to abound in our lives. We can give our offerings generously, trusting in the promise of God that he cares for us and will supply all that we need for life. God's grace is poured out on us abundantly. His grace works in our hearts a willingness, yes, a joy, to give offerings to God. The joy of giving is a result of God's miracle worked in our hearts to thankfully give to God, who has given us the joy of salvation by faith in Jesus. When we focus on Christ, our giving is not a reluctant action or a compulsive habit but a joyful and thankful response to God's great love for us. This is the kind of cheerful giving that God loves.

### Prayer:

Lord God, increase my trust in your promise to supply all I need for life. Lead me to reflect my thankfulness for all your blessings in the joyful way I give my offerings. Amen.

*This devotion brought to you by WELS and [www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com)*

---

## LADIES AID

One of the oldest organizations of the church is the Ladies Aid. It was organized on a March afternoon in 1908 at the home of Mrs. Julius Haase by 13 ladies of the congregation. Mrs. John Witt, the pastor's wife, was chosen as president. She held this office for 20 years. Meetings were held in the homes, at the City Auditorium, Grace Lutheran Church, etc., until December 1949 when they were able to meet in our own school building. Meetings are now held the first Thursday of every month. Each lady becomes an honorary member when she reaches 75 years of age and is then exempt from all duties if she so wishes. Their purpose has always been "To grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To create and increase interest in the work of our congregation and of the Kingdom of Christ at large. To create a close fellowship and sociability among ladies in charitable endeavors of the church.

Taken from "The History of St. Paul's Lutheran Church" page 23.

Compiled by Neva Winter, 2011

On December 1, 2022 after 113 years and 9 months of service this organization will no longer exist. We will continue "to create a close fellowship and sociability" among the ladies of our church and to hear God's word by continuing to meet the first Thursday of every month at 1:30 PM in the church basement. We invite all women of the congregation as well as guest-friends, neighbors, family or someone off the street-to join us.

Thank the Lord for all the years he gave our Ladies Aid to carry out the work they first proposed to do when they organized in March, 1908.

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16.

---

## FAREWELL

After 27 years of being secretary for St. Paul's Church and School, I am stepping down from that position. I have gotten to know some amazing people over the years, and many of them I hold dear to my heart – just like family.

Times have changed over the years. We have gone from typewriters to computers. Thanks to "copy" and "paste" you no longer have to type everything out. Every week I would drop off the bulletins at a ladies house where a group of ladies would fold each one of them. Now the machines fold and staple. The same with putting the Epistle newsletter together. A group of ladies would get together once a month and manually assemble the newsletter. Before we had air conditioning in the classrooms, we would dismiss school early because of the heat.

God has blessed us richly over the years and continues to do so. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve here for so many years! God's Blessings to you all!

Jeanette Leuthold

---

# OBITUARY

## DIANNE WICHMAN

Dianne Rae Wichman was born November 17, 1942 at Monterey Park, California to Warren and Cecelia (Halsey) Kohl.

She graduated in 1961 from Inglewood High School in Inglewood, California.

She married Harold Nerkins on March 18, 1961. On August 14, 1982 Dianne married Richard W. Wichman in Yankton, South Dakota. For 20 years she was a bookkeeper at Johnson Plumbing and Heating, Inc in Norfolk.

Dianne was a Huskers fan, and loved taking care of her cats. She also enjoyed helping out at the Food Pantry in Norfolk.

Dianne is survived by her sons Gary Nerkins of Wheatfield, Indiana and Glen Nerkins of Tyler, Texas; grandchildren Christopher Fowler, Allen Nerkins, Aaron Nerkins, Chloe Nerkins, Eliza Nerkins, Gavin Nerkins, and Ethan Nerkins; great-grandchildren Aaron Jr., Kaden, and Rowan; and her brother Larry Wright. She is further survived by special friends Allene Johnson, Betty Hille, Verle Winter, and Joanne Grebe.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband Richard.

---

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

December 4 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

December 11 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

December 18 - In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Klug, Mr. & Mrs. Al Baker, & Delbert Retzlaff  
from Don & Diane Kahler.

December 25 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

## **MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

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

- In memory of Bill Miller (\$20)(\$20)
- In memory of Lois Nielsen (\$25)
- In memory of Delmer Pufahl (\$10)
- In memory of Lois Nielsen (\$270)

---

**Church Attendance:**

Nov. 19 (49), Nov. 20 (160) = 209 (46%)

Thanksgiving = 117 (26%)

Nov. 26 (92), Nov. 27 (75) = 167 (37%)

Dec. 3 (67), Dec. 4 (118) = 185 (41%)

Dec. 10 (54), Dec. 11 (140) = 194 (43%)

Dec. 17 (69), Dec. 18 (115) = 184 (41%)

**Communion Attendance:**

Nov. 19 & 20 = 132 (35%)

Dec. 3 & 4 = 120 (32%)

Dec. 17 & 18 = 110 (29%)

**Weddings:** None

**Baptisms:**

11/14/22 Brigham Neal Neidig – *son of Ed & Alicia (McCabe) Neidig*

**Funerals:**

12/14/22 Dianne Wichman

12/21/22 Al Wattles (non-member)

---

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