

Address:

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Church Office Hours:

M,W,Th, F 8:30 – 11:30 am

Sunday Schedule:

Worship: 9:30 am
Sunday School & Adult
Bible Class: 8:30 am

Pastors:

Rev. Roger Rohde
Office Hours:
M & Th 8:30 – 11:30
1-574-209-0306 (H)

Rev. Neil Wonnacott
Office Hours:
W & F 8:30 – 11:30
1-574-301-9291 (H)

As Lent begins and additional opportunities for worship arise, it is well for us to give some consideration to what it means to “grow in the Lord.” The God-inspired writer, Peter, wrote to Christians and said: “Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:8a).

What does it mean to “grow in Christ?” Perhaps an acrostic on the word “grow” and Bible references connected to each point may help us better keep in mind and understand this directive from God.

“G” reminds us to gather together with fellow Christians in worship, prayer, and Bible study. The Lord knows all too well the evils of this world and how they can influence our thinking and our values. Hence, the Lord instructs us to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24). How is this done? The Lord answers: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25). Spiritual growth occurs when we regularly take time to meet where God feeds us through His Word and Sacraments, and we gather with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

“R” reminds us of the importance of reading the Bible and applying it to our daily lives. None of us goes a day without opening the refrigerator and getting some nourishment for our bodies. God tells us: “Man will not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Jesus assures us: “If you continue in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31-32). Spiritual growth takes place when we spend private time with the Lord in His Word and apply it to our lives.

“O” reminds us of the importance of obeying God's Word so that we walk by the Holy Spirit rather than our sinful flesh. The Lord promises that the Holy Spirit will guide us in the truth of God's Word (John 16:15). God's Word is to be “a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path” (Psalm 119:105). God's definition of spiritual growth in Galatians 5 is to “live by the Spirit, and not gratify the desires of the sinful nature” (verse 16). He admonishes us to “keep in step with the Spirit” (verses 25). We are growing in Christ as we walk in accordance with God's Word by the power of the Holy Spirit and follow not the desires

of our sinful flesh.

“W” reminds us that a part of Christian growth is witnessing to the Christian faith. People who have taught Sunday school or Bible class will say how much more they learn when they teach. The reason is that when we share our faith we need to be prepared to do so. This is why the Lord tells us to “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have” (1 Peter 3:15). The wonderful thing about sharing the faith is that we do not lose our faith when we do so, but it grows stronger.

Many people talk about what they give up for Lent. How about us giving more to the Lord in Lent and becoming more active in worship, Bible study, living and sharing our faith that we may “grow in the Lord.”

Lessons in Stewardship: What Is Your Position in the Church?

In the Upper Room Jesus prepared to celebrate the Passover Meal with His disciples. In that room Jesus showed us something about what it means to be a follower of Christ. In Luke’s account, we are told that the disciples were arguing with one another about who is the greatest in the kingdom of God. Jesus noted that in this world people think being served makes you great, but in God’s kingdom greatness is found in serving others (Luke 22:24-26).

Who was the one serving in the Upper Room? Before the meal began Jesus took a basin of water and washed the disciples’ feet (John 13:5). Jesus taught, lived, and died showing us that greatness in the kingdom of God is found in serving others.

Through His words and actions He gave us insight as to the position we are to take in His church. Each of us is to add to the ministry of St. Paul’s by taking on a position of servanthood. May we keep these words of Jesus ever before us: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:26-28).

THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL EPISTLE IS MARCH 20TH!!! Epistle articles, comments, ideas may be deposited in the epistle box in the Narthex mail slots or better yet e-mailed to Deb Burcham at dburcham@stpaulsbremen.org. I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

Mark your calendar!

Next Scrip Order is Sunday, March 1st!

You don’t have to wait to place your orders. Enroll in our organization at ShopWithScrip.com (**Enrollment Code: BA9E468A59681**), place orders online, and submit your cash or check payment to: [St Paul’s PTL Scrip](#), or use Presto Pay to submit payment if you enroll in this added benefit. Enrollment is free and makes ordering from Scrip fast and easy, or reload previously purchased cards through Reload, and ReloadNow. Contact your Scrip Coordinator, Heidi Wildauer or Angie Hughes, if you need assistance!

Every purchase from Scrip earns money for our St Paul’s Scrip program. Plan ahead and shop for groceries, hotels, gas, clothing, and restaurants you may like to visit, and help our youth ministry efforts here at our church and school...St. Paul’s Scrip appreciates your support!

Lenten Midweek Series: “Living Among the Bible’s Trees”

Worship at 7pm with Dinner at 6pm

Lenten Midweek 2 – Mar. 4th: Great Trees of Mamre near the Machpelah, Psalm 96; Genesis 18:1–33; 23:1–20

Lenten Midweek 3 – Mar. 11th: Oak at Ophrah, Psalm 78; Judges 6:1–40; Matthew 12:38–42

Lenten Midweek 4 – Mar. 18th: Jesse’s Tree, Psalm 80:8–19; Isaiah 6:1–13; 10:33–11:16

Lenten Midweek 5 – Mar. 25th: Tree of the Lord’s Planting, Psalm 104:10–18; Ezekiel 17:1–24; Mark 4:30–32

Lenten Midweek 6 – Apr. 1st: Good Trees Bearing Good Fruit, Bad Trees Bearing Bad Fruit, Psalm 148; Galatians 5:1, 13–25; Matthew 7:15–20

Maundy Thursday – Apr. 9th: Fig Trees, Psalm 105:23–45; Luke 13:1–9; Mark 11:12–25

Good Friday – Apr. 10th: Tree of the Cross, Psalm 74; Deuteronomy 21:22–23; Galatians 3:1–14

Sonrise Easter Sunday – Apr. 12th: Tree of Life, Psalm 52; Ezekiel 47:1–12; Revelation 22:1–20, Matthew 28:1–10

Everyone is welcome and this is a great opportunity to invite a friend to church!

Easter Day Card List of Some of Our Seniors 2020

1. Rita Stanifer Miller’s Merry Manor, 635 Oakhill Ave., Room North 11, Plymouth, IN 46563
2. Patsy Schlemmer & Mel 303 East Maple St., Bremen, IN 46506
3. Diana Rodgers 103 N. Center St., Apt. 203, Bremen, IN 46506
4. Lester & Mildred Bollenbacher 1633 W. Grant St., Bremen, IN 46506
5. Bo Weldy 903 N. Center St., Bremen, IN 46506
6. Linda Allen 500 S. Montgomery St., Apt. 114, Bremen, IN 465067
7. Goldie Buckner 612 S. Washington St., Bremen, IN 46506
8. Phyllis Brown Miller’s Merry Manor, 303 N Washington, Room 145 Wakarusa, IN 46573
9. Marie Southard Miller’s Merry Manor, 303 North Washington, Peach Pod 115, Wakarusa, IN 46573
10. Carol Seegers Golden Living Center, 1001 W. Hively Ave., Room 519 Elkhart, IN 46517
11. Shirley Cremeens St. Paul’s Nursing Home, 3602 Ironwood, Room 211C South Bend, IN 46614
12. Jerry & Linda Smith 934 West Andrews Court, South Bend, IN 46614
13. Dan Miller Hamilton Grove, 31869 Chicago St., Room 130 New Carlisle, IN 46552
14. Troy & Bob Yoder 2824 Michigan Rd., Plymouth, IN 46563
15. Helen Olsen 821 South Loretta Ave., Avon Park, FL 33825
16. Leo Sahlhoff Miller’s Merry Manor, 1630 S. County Farm Road, Room 49, Warsaw, IN 46580
17. Harold Nettrour 1584 Miami Road, Bremen, IN 46506

Board Briefs:

Christian Education:

In 2020 our Sunday School will continue to send \$75.00 each month to a mission.

March Mission of the Month: Lutheran Child and Family Services, Indianapolis

Lutheran Child & Family Services of IN, Inc. assist vulnerable youth and families in crisis.

The LCFS is committed to providing compassionate care and counsel to enhance the dignity and quality of life of those in need. Agency programs and services include:

- Youth residential treatment center and education academy
- Family preservation
- Parenting education
- Emergency food and clothing assistance
- Mentoring
- Adoption and foster care services

For more information, go to <http://www.lutheranfamily.org/about.html>

These are the teachers for the Spring Quarter of Sunday School.

Pre-K- Grade 2	Heidi Wildauer	Mrs. Coxey's Room
Grades 3-4	Wendy Coxey	Mr. Wildauer's Room
Grades 5-6	Jeanette Rettinger	Miss Rennecker's Room
Grades 7-8	Kelly Sienicki	Mr. Otto's Room
High School	Ian Leborious	Principal's Office
Adult 1	Dennis Sienicki	Bethany Room
Adult 2	Mark Wildauer	Jerusalem Room

Adult Bible Study Class Offerings

Dennis Sienicki will be presenting the topic of Apologetics which is the study on how to defend your faith. Apologetics is based upon 1st Peter 3:16. Dennis will be using information from Concordia publishing. Our Second topic is shared leadership with Andy and Mark Wildauer studying the digital citizen. They are using the book faithfully connected. We have a limited number of books and this is a small study class. Please take advantage of these studies to understand what God is teaching us in his word and what he has in store for us.

Church Office:

Deaths: Jason Dobbins

Parish Fellowship:

WE NEED YOU at our Euchre parties in 2020! New Day of the Week – Thursday – Next opportunity is March 12th at 7pm. The Euchre parties are sponsored by the Parish Fellowship Board and are designed as a night of fun, fellowship and cards. We ask that you bring a snack to share, and drinks will be provided by the board. The parties begin at 7pm and run until 9pm for people 20 years old and older. It's a great night to invite a friend!!!

Men's Group takes place on Sundays, March 1st & 15th from 3-5pm for all men ages 15 and above. We will meet in the gym for basketball and fellowship and will close with a prayer.

Parish Fellowship Meeting after church on March 15, 2020

Lenten Cookie Sign-up list is on the "Check It Out" Board by the school secretary's office. Show off your baking skills or just buy some cookies! We need you to bring 3 dozen if you sign up.

Stewardship:

This month's topic regarding the "Charitable and Giving envelopes" pertains to the SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS fund.

This savings reserve fund was established to cover the cost of future projects announced by Church Properties and/or special opportunities for continued Church growth as suggested by the Parish Planning Council.

Will you be "out of town" on SPRING BREAK? The blessings of God's Church never cease. Enjoy your time away and please remember those blessings in your tithes.

PR & Evangelism:

The Public Relations Board is excited to announce the launching of our new church website, stpaulsbremen.church on February 1st.

We would like to encourage all the Boards, church groups and school to give information on events to Bruce Schmidt or put it in the Public Relations mailbox or preachmin@stpaulsbreme.org, so it can be put on the website. It won't get on there if you don't tell us!

Please note that the site is still under construction and more will be added. Also, all of the existing email addresses will be staying the same.

Altar Guild: Attendant for March is Heather Middaugh.

Altar Flowers in March:

- 1
- 8
- 15
- 22 Steve & Michelle Potoczky
- 29 Wayne & Robin Spicher

The Altar Flower Chart for the 2020 Liturgical Year is hanging in the Narthex (North side), just outside the altar guild room door. Please look it over and sign up for flowers

Come Join the "Feast" !!!

Then Jesus declared, *"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."* John 6:35

Every two weeks, a group of men from St. Paul's meet for breakfast and Bible study at Bremen Community Hospital in the cafeteria conference room. The discussion and fellowship make this a great way to start a day by feeding our physical and spiritual needs.....it's been rumored that laughter and friendship have been carried from the breakfasts!

Come, join us and bring a friend along. We start at 6:30 AM and finish at 7:30 AM.

The schedule for 2020 is as follows; 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22, 5/6, 5/20, 6/3, 6/17, 7/1, 7/15, 7/29, 8/12, 8/26, 9/9, 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16. If you have questions, feel free to contact Dave Burcham (574-520-9118).

Thursday Morning Bible Study meets from 9:30 to 11:00am in the Jerusalem Room. We are studying 'James, How Faith Works'. Everyone is welcome!



SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

e-mail: schools@stpaulsbremen.org

The SCHOOL THEME for the 2019-2020 school year is JOY:FULLY LUTHERAN. It is based on I Thess. 5:16-24: "Be joyful always; pray continually..."

*St. Paul's Lutheran School
Open House*

Tuesday, March 10th from 5 to 7 pm

*For prospective students and their families
In grades Preschool thru 3rd grade!*

*Bring your students for fun activities while
Parents meet with teachers and tour classrooms.*

Please pass the date along if you know of prospective students.

Showcase of Fine Arts and Crafts



St. Paul's PTL is sponsoring the 26th Annual Showcase of Fine Arts and Crafts, Friday, March 20 at 7:00 P.M. in the Bethany Room. Everyone is invited to come and view the art and craft entries. There will also be a showcase of the music entries, with a program of the instrumental, piano, and vocal entries.

Please note: This year we will again have an area for "open entries." This will be for members of our congregation who wish to display an art or craft item but do not have a family member in our school. If you are interested in entering, please contact Anita Eichinger, 546-4607, or pick up an entry form packet on the table in the narthex. The deadline to return entry forms is March 12.



Join St. Paul's Lutheran School for Volleyball!!

St. Paul's Staff and 8th graders will host a team from Willie 103.5 Country Radio Station for 5 games!

March 30th at 6:30 pm in St. Paul's Gym

Admission is \$5/person or \$10/family

Proceeds will go toward purchasing rental vans for the 6th thru 8th grade class trip to the Creation Museum in April!!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

First Annual St. Paul's Lutheran School Auction
Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 6 pm at St. Paul's.



This year the goal of this auction will be to raise funds for a new 2nd – 5th grade Reading Curriculum.

Watch for more information in the coming months!



Postings from Preschool:

February was a fun month filled with Valentines, special stuffed animals, relay races, musical chairs, super socks, playing instruments and more! In Bible Story we learned about forgiveness for the Lost Son, mercy from the Good Samaritan and repentance in Zacchaeus.

Students from the Day School read books to the preschoolers as part of the Reading Buddies program and it looked like everyone had a great time.

Don't forget about our Family Carnival Open House on March 10th from 5-7pm! Tell your friends with young children to check us out for a well-rounded Christian education!

March Devotion: "The Blood?"

Then one of the elders addressed me (John), saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Revelation 7:13-14

What are you worth? Figuring out your worth or the worth of anything can be a difficult task.

Allow me to give you an illustration. Back when I was at seminary in Springfield, Illinois, I spent a fair amount of time wandering through the museums dedicated to Abraham Lincoln. At one of those museums, I saw a few square inches of silk.

Now silk can be an expensive cloth, but this bit of material is not for sale. Offer what you want, you can't buy it. Why? Well, its value is not because it was once part of a dress owned and worn by a young lady by the name of Clara Harris. Not one person in a hundred would be able to recognize Harris' name.

No, that silk has value because -- the night Abraham Lincoln was assassinated -- Clara Harris was sitting in the president's box with him. After Lincoln had been shot, she caught him and cradled his head in her lap. Like a mother might cradle her child, she held him. And Harris' beautiful silk dress was stained by the blood of a great man. It is Lincoln's blood that caused the state of Illinois to buy that dress. It is Lincoln's blood that gives those square inches of silk their immense value.

This takes me back to the original question: what are you worth? Some will say your body, broken down into its various base elements, is worth a few dollars. Justice will say you are, because of your sin, worth less than nothing. But the Heavenly Father has put a

different value on you. Because of His Son's life's blood poured out on Calvary's cruel cross, you have a different value. Because of Jesus' blood you are washed, you are forgiven and, with Holy Spirit-given faith, you are saved.

What are you worth? You were worth the life of God's Son: you were worth saving. And for that we should give unending thanks to the Lord.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, there are times when people and problems, times and troubles wish to grind me down and make me feel worthless. Especially at such moments may my eyes be lifted to the cross, so I might see the Savior. Let me realize You have made me valuable because my sins have been washed away by the blood of Jesus, my Savior. In His Name I pray this. Amen.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next.
Amen.