

Address:

605 S. Center St.
Bremen, IN 46506

Telephone:

1-574-546-2332

E-Mail:

church@stpaulsbremen.org
schools@stpaulsbremen.org

Website:

stpaulsbremen.church
facebook.com/stpaulsbremen

Church Office Hours:

M,W,Th, F 8:30 – 11:30 am

Sunday Schedule:

No scheduled Worship
Services through April 2
due to COVID 19

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)

I recently read a story about a young 23 year-old single mother. She had two sons by two different men. She lived alone and struggled to put food on the table and a roof over their heads. She was also a repeated victim of domestic violence. She lived in a community of about 40,000 people. Within this town there were 43 Christian churches.

The shocking thing about all of this is that this young mother knew nothing about God and the Christian church. She wanted to know if any Christian church would “allow” her to attend. Her perception of the church was that you needed to be baptized and pay dues of 10% of your income to be a member. She had this perception because other unbelievers were quick to tell her their perception of Christianity. Unfortunately no Christians had ever spoken to her about the true facts concerning Christianity. As a result she had never been told about Jesus dying on the cross for the sins of world and Him rising again from the grave. She never heard of Moses, Abraham, David, Peter, or Paul. She could not name one apostle or book of the Bible.

The irony of all this is that she lived right across the street from a Christian church. People went there to worship, but she never was told she was “allowed” to enter through the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ.

This true story led me to turn back to the story of the first Easter and view it in a new light. Women had gone to the burial site of Jesus early the day after the Sabbath to anoint Jesus' dead body. They were in a sense making an offering to Jesus not yet knowing the great offering He had made for them. At the tomb they saw a young man dressed in a white robe who announced to them that they were not to be afraid. The body of Jesus was no longer there because He had risen from the dead just as He said He would. Then they were told to go back into town and tell the eleven disciples and all the others the message that Jesus had risen from the grave.

This led me to think about my Easter celebration and yours. It is good that we come to God's house on Easter bringing our gifts and being refreshed with the truth that we have living and reigning Savior Who has conquered sin, Satan, and death for us. But what about the people in our communities who are like the mother of two in our opening story? Are we going to let the unbelieving world fill those people with false and distorted concepts of Christianity, or are we going to do the Lord's bidding and "preach the Gospel to every creature?" We have been to Jesus' tomb spiritually and seen the truth of His resurrection and its meaning for all people. Let us not only be Easter worshippers, but Easter proclaimers of God's truth each and every day of our lives.

Miss Rennecker has received a call from Lutheran High School in Indianapolis, IN. Please lift her up in prayer as she considers her call.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bremen, IN

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF WORSHIP SERVICES

St Paul's Lutheran Church is suspending Worship Services effective March 18th through April 2nd. This suspension is to comply with requests from the Federal Government Center for Disease Control to limit gatherings to less than 10 people to help curb the spreading of the COVID-19 virus. Continual monitoring of the spread of the virus will be done and updates provided prior to April 2nd. The ministry of St Paul's does not change: spreading the Gospel to all and praising God in all areas of our daily lives. Pastors Rohde and Wonnacott will record Sunday worship services during the suspension and these will be placed on St. Paul's website (www.stpaulsbremen.church) and on Facebook. Please continue to worship during the suspension by using these tools.

It is VERY important that we remember to continue our offerings to God to support St Paul's ministry. The expenses of staff salaries and facilities operations continue even with the suspensions, so please make your offerings to God via e-tithing, mailing your offering to the church (605 S. Center St., Bremen, IN 46506) or stopping by the church during office hours (8 – 11:30A.M. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday). If there are questions, please contact the church office at 574-546-2332.

May God continue to lead us in our daily lives and that we praise Him for opportunities to worship Him in the ways He provides.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY EPISTLE IS APRIL 21ST!!! 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!

Operating budget fund balance as of March 19, 2020- \$65,100
This amount represents just over 5 weeks of normal day-to-day expenses of the Church and School ministries.

January operating budget fund donations – \$53,556
January operating budget fund spend – <\$53,374>

Board Briefs:

Christian Education:

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

April Mission of the Month: LCMS World Relief and Human Care

Your contributions to the LCMS World Relief and Human Care now reach people close to home through the Office of National Mission and in faraway lands through the Office of International Mission in ways that defy sin, death and the devil in this broken world

God's unchanging love, through many works of mercy, continues to open hearts and minds to the Good News so that lives are changed and souls are brought into the body of Christ for eternity.

For information on these works of mercy, go to: <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy>

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

This summer in Sunday School, we will be joining "Christian" on his journey from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. The Pilgrim's Progress written by John Bunyan was originally published in 1678. The Bible is the only book that has ever sold more copies. This timeless classic is an allegory which is a story with two meanings. First, this is an exciting adventure story of a man and his friends on a journey to a wonderful place. On their way, they meet many challenges, dangers, and enemies. But it is also a story that teaches important truths about Jesus and every Christian's journey through life.

The version of Pilgrim's Progress we will be using is written in today's English and the curriculum is designed for children ages 6-12. As they travel on their journey with Christian, they will discover that they, too, deal with similar obstacles in their own lives, and that Christ saves, leads, and protects them. Along with the story, the children will learn more about each lesson through scripture, games, crafts, songs and activities. Plan now to join us this summer for this Great Adventure! More details will follow in the May Epistle.



Church Office:

Adult Baptism & Confirmation: Christin Lizzi

Parish Fellowship:

The Following Events have been Canceled

Men's Group, Euchre Party, Easter Breakfast, Parish Fellowship Meeting on April 19th,
6th & 7th Grade Confirmation Classes on Sundays in April, Outreach for the month of April, and
Hope Ministries Dinner on April 19th

Stewardship:

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE BLUE CHARITABLE AND SERVICES AGENCIES ENVELOPE:

The purpose of the ADULT SCHOLARSHIP FUND is to grant financial aid once a year and/or as directed by the advisory committee. This is for members who have been enrolled in one of the Synod's colleges for training for full-time service as a pastor, parochial teacher, or such professional worker, in a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church or School. The scholarship was established in 1983 and can be contributed to by using the blue Charitable and Services Agencies envelope.

There is currently no one enrolled in education relating to full time Church work.

A check was recently received from the AmazonSmile program totaling \$189.00.

OFFERINGS: Though your heart may feel uncomfortable with e-tithing instead of the offering plate, it may be necessary for the next few weeks or months. Simply sign up by going to stpaulsbremen.church. Across the top click "GIVE" and then click "E-Tithing". If you need additional help on how to sign up, contact members of the Board of Stewardship. Offerings may also be mailed to the church secretary at 605 S. Center St.

"Don't leave home without it." With this slogan, we are asked to put our trust in a small rectangular piece of plastic when we travel. By carrying this piece of plastic, a credit card, nothing that can go wrong can't be fixed. Trusting in this piece of plastic, we have peace of mind. We can have a relaxed and enjoyable trip. There is nothing to worry about. The credit card allows us to take care of all our needs.

Jesus sent out His disciples to travel through the land and proclaim the good news that God's promise had been fulfilled in Him, for He, the Messiah, had come. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic."

Jesus sent His disciples out with nothing more than the power of His Word. In their infant faith, they had to put their complete trust in their Lord and master. In faith, they had to trust that their needs would be provided for, that they would have peace of mind, and that they would be protected from danger as they preached and taught the Word.

There is much to take to heart in this account. First, Jesus constantly draws us, His disciples, further into an intimate relationship of service to Him by the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word. He employs us to serve Him as an extension of His mission of saving grace. He uses us to proclaim the Gospel message. He uses us to bring those around us to Him. Just as His disciples did, in faith, we trust that He has given us everything we need to proclaim Him as the Savior, the Christ, who died for the sins of all.

Secondly, those who heard the disciples preach were empowered to aid and support their ministry. You see, according to Mark chapter 6, the disciples set out to serve the Lord with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. As they preached and taught the Word, people were moved and opened their homes to them, giving of their wealth and possessions to meet the needs of the disciples.

As you celebrate Easter, please make every effort to be in worship at St. Paul's. As you attend to celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death, please consider a special "thank offering" to the Lord's work in our community. *Yours in Him, Board of Stewardship.*

Altar Guild: Attendant for April is Heather Middaugh.

Altar Flowers in April:

- 5
- 9 Maundy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Mike & Tammy Venable
- 19 Marian Yoder
- 26 Bruce & Ellen Augustine

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; 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).

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.



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...”

Governor Eric J. Holcomb announced additional steps the state will take to reduce the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Indiana. Related to the operation of schools:

1. Schools will remain closed until (atleast) May 1st
2. All State Assessments have been cancelled.

Please keep our Church and School Staff and our student families in your prayers as we go to home-based instruction and work through these unusual times!



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



This event has been postponed at this time. Watch for updates!

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

First Annual St. Paul's Lutheran School Auction
Tentative Date!
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!

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Postings from Preschool:

Our students had a full and fun two weeks before school closed because of the coronavirus. They learned about zoo animals and insects, participated in hot potato and puzzle relay races, and heard how Jesus calmed a storm and rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We also celebrated Hat Day by wearing our favorite hats and centering all our activities around them.

Now that the children are at home we pray that they would continue to learn about Jesus, His love, and every good gift He gives to us.

March Devotion: "Covering For Shame"

And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among them by casting lots. (Matthew 27:35) Read John 19:23-24

Most of us know shame. Shame for something we've done long ago, something almost forgotten until a chance word reminds us, and we cringe. Shame for something that was done to us, that we know was not our fault, but we can't shake the memory. Shame for something we can't help and we can't change, that maybe shouldn't even be shameful at all, but it still causes that kind of pain.

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took His clothes away. Almost every painting and crucifix in the world shows Jesus wearing a loincloth, but that's more a reflection of what we hope happened rather than what really did happen. The Romans normally crucified people naked. Shame was part of the punishment.

And this, too, Jesus bore for us. He came to be with us, within our pain and shame, to take it from us and onto Himself. He took our shame to give us His honor -- His comfort -- His glory. He died naked, in order to clothe us in His forgiving love.

There is no shame so deep that Jesus has not taken it upon Himself. And in exchange He gives us -- Himself. Our Savior, our Lord, our healer. "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). When God looks at us, He sees His beloved children -- safe in Christ Jesus.

THE PRAYER: Thank You for covering my shame, Lord Jesus. Set my heart upon You to love You through everything I do. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

What is something very minor that happened to you and caused you embarrassment?

Have you ever comforted another person who felt shame? How did you do it?

Christ has taken our shame and given us His own dignity and freedom. In God's eyes (the only eyes that matter) you are His beloved child. Describe your thoughts and feelings about this.