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**Website:**

stpaulsbremen.church  
facebook.com/stpaulsbremen

**Church Office Hours:**

M,W,Th, F 8:30 – 11:30 am

**Sunday Schedule:**

Worship: 9:30 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)

I told you last month that in the June Epistle I would share with you some things I have learned through the coronavirus. I will begin by sharing with you my strong belief from God's Word that everything happens for a purpose and that every experience a Christian encounters is meant to bring about something positive with regard to the Christian faith and life. James, a servant of God, wrote to Christians under the Holy Spirit's power: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Each encounter a Christian goes through in life is meant to develop his character, strengthen his faith, and intensify his walk with Christ. So what may we have learned from a long April of being isolated?

The first thing God convicted me of is living one day at a time. As with all of you, my life is filled with many plans and scheduled events. During the pandemic we had planned vacations to North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. God kept us home. We have two family weddings in June and one in July. Our being a part of these events is in doubt. This can be a frustrating experience, and yet it is God who wants to direct every moment of our lives. He tells us: "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of itself" (Matthew 6:34). How often are our today's so preoccupied with our uncertain tomorrows that we never accomplish and fulfill what God would have us to do today? With the uncertainties created by the coronavirus, God has taught us that His love and His plan for our lives are certain. We can "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:34).

A second learning experience for me is God releasing me from self-dependence to God-dependence. We most certainly know that we are to trust God wholeheartedly in all things. Yet, while we say it and may try to live it, we frequently depend too much on ourselves and lack trust in the enabling power of God. When we worry or doubt, when we work as if all of life depends on us, we forget Jesus' words of comfort: "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink.... Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable

than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life” (Matthew 6:25-27)? Look at the cross and behold the Lord’s love in caring for you. Rest in His love!

Third, I am struck by the providential hand of God. We certainly don’t understand all God’s workings, but God has a perfect plan as He knows the future and what we need right now to take care of what will be before us. As was noted under “School News and Notes” in last month’s Epistle, if God had not brought together the school staff we had this school year, e-learning would not have been a possibility and it would have left our school with the incapability of teaching our student body during this epidemic. God is good. He tells us: “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11). Yes, Christ the risen Savior has promised us: “All things will work for the good of those who love God, to those who have been called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Fourth, what became clear through the pandemic and the continuance of St. Paul’s ministry in the church and through the school is the importance of Christian teamwork. Not enough emphasis is placed on this concept, although it is emphasized again and again in the Bible (Romans 8:3-8; I Corinthians 12: Ephesians 4:7-16; I Peter 4:10-11). It is only as people stepped to the plate and put to use their God-given talents and abilities that the education through our school, Sunday school and worship services could continue. Thanks to all who gave of themselves that others could be blest in Christ, and may we all learn the importance of working together that the kingdom of God can move forward.

Thanks for those of you who responded to my request and shared with me what God has taught you through the coronavirus epidemic. God still is at work if we will only open our eyes and see the world through His Word.

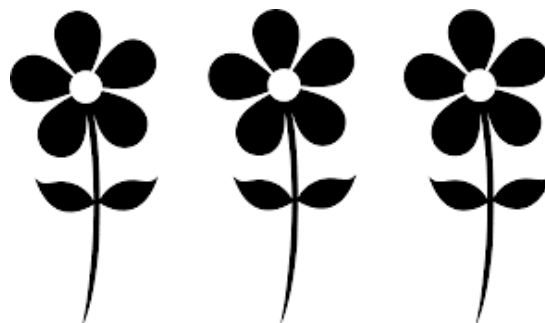
I pray that you are better off today spiritually because of what God has been teaching you through the coronavirus and the eternal truths of His Word. We are a blessed people because our Lord and Savior reigns for the sake of His people eternally (Ephesians 1:20-23). Have a blessed day because of Jesus!

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE JULY EPISTLE IS JUNE 21!!!** 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](mailto:dburcham@stpaulsbremen.org). I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

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Operating budget fund balance as of April 17, 2020- \$66,600  
**This amount represents just over 5 weeks of normal day-to-day expenses of the Church and School ministries.**

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**Board Briefs:**

**Christian Education:**

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

June Mission of the Month: Lutheran Braille Workers

Lutheran Braille Workers is the largest Christian ministry in the world that provides Braille and specialized Large Print Bibles free of charge for people who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Thanks to an army of volunteers and thousands of generous partners who financially support this ministry, Lutheran Braille Workers is able to get the Word of God into the hands of people who are Blind or Visually Impaired at no expense to them.

By engaging some 3,000 volunteers in over 110 Ministry Production Centers throughout the United States, Lutheran Braille Workers produces approximately 150,000 volumes a year of Braille and specialized Large Print Bibles and Christian literature.

In addition, Lutheran Braille Workers has over 40 Ministry Outreach Centers throughout the United States that minister to people who are Blind and Visually Impaired through the provision of resources they can use. Most importantly, Outreach Centers provide a family of love and care. Many people who would not otherwise hear about Jesus connect to God’s Word and His people at Outreach Centers.

Lutheran Braille Workers’ publications are distributed free of charge in more than 130 countries around the globe. For more information go to: lbwinc.org

Children’s Sunday School and Adult Bible Class will resume in the church/school on July 5, 2020. This is in accordance with the State of Indiana Covid-19 five-stage program. Although we are able to worship with social distancing, our classrooms do not presently allow enough space to comply with the order. We will continue to send out Sunday School materials to our K-8 grade classes through May 31.

During the month of June . . . Children may pick up their lessons in the church Narthex (or have them mailed to their homes). Adults will be provided with an independent Bible study that may also be picked up in the Narthex each Sunday . . .

The Bd. of Christian Ed. has also identified additional online resources. Listed below are some resources for individual or family study.

[www.Issuesetc.org](http://www.Issuesetc.org)

<https://cphfaithcourses.com/care/>

During the month of June we will be studying John the Baptist for 4 weeks in a hand out that can be picked up before or after Church on Sunday.

Until we meet again, we pray that you find hope and encouragement through God’s unfailing Word! “For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.”

Psalm 71:5 . . . . . St. Paul’s Bd. of Christian Education

**School Board:**

Tuition expenses for school families are on going! In an effort to help our school families with school related expenses St. Paul’s has **2 opportunities** for families to apply for scholarships. First, families with students in K-8 grades may apply for an **SGO (The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana) Tuition Scholarship**. During the 2019-2020

school year, \$7,100 in Scholarships to St. Paul's came from this source. Secondly, St. Paul's has a **Church Scholarship fund** for preschool students who qualify and also for any K-8 student who does not qualify for an SGO scholarship but needs assistance. In the 2019-2020 school year approximately \$6,745 in Scholarship money came from this fund.

As a congregation we have 2 opportunities to help St. Paul's students! You may use your church envelope to donate to the Church Scholarship (Tuition Aid) fund and/or you may also check out and donate to St. Paul's SGO fund by going on line to [Lutheransgo.org](http://Lutheransgo.org). If you have any questions regarding SGO, give Curt Nielsen a call at 248-1529.

As this school year has ended now is the time to think about helping students who will come to us in the fall!

### **Stewardship:**

One of the charitable options of the red and white offering envelope is the Lutheran Child and Family Services.

Their mission: In response to God's love and grace in Jesus Christ, Lutheran Child and Family Services serves human needs with the support of the church and community by providing programs of compassionate care and counsel.

Another charitable option of the red and white envelope is the Bethesda Lutheran Home. The mission of the Bethesda Lutheran Home is to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Regarding the Adult Scholarship fund: currently there is no one seeking funds from this account for full time Church work.

Born of the cross, Christian love does not  
seek something good to enjoy;  
rather, it seeks to provide for those in need.

“...remembering the words of the Lord Jess himself said,  
“it is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

**Altar Guild:** Attendant for June is Dorothy Sahlhoff and Lori Haug.

Altar Flowers in June:

7  
14  
21  
28

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



# SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

e-mail: [schools@stpaulsbremen.org](mailto:schools@stpaulsbremen.org)

## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission Statement**

By faithfully proclaiming God's saving grace through God's Holy Word, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation will enable its members to grow stronger in their relationship with Jesus Christ and share with others the Good News of salvation.

## **School Mission Statement:**

By faithfully proclaiming God's saving grace, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran School will help children grow in their relationship with Jesus as we prepare them academically, socially, and emotionally for life in this world.

## **School Purpose:**

The purpose of St. Paul's Lutheran School is "to provide a nurturing environment for education that develops the full potential of its students for life-skills and service to the Triune God."

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..."

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Our school year has come to an end with the turning in of computers and the picking up of items left in desks. We have finished a very unusual school year stronger! Already the staff and School Board are looking to the fall and preparing for students to resume class work here at St. Paul's. We know there will be changes and things to learn. We also know that God has a perfect plan for us and will help us along the way. He has blessed us in many ways, one of which is your support. Please keep the staff and school families in your prayers this summer.

Thank you for your generous support of our school!

Please pray for:

1. Wisdom for our teachers, returning staff, new staff and those going to other schools.
2. All our families to have a safe and relaxing summer and know the love of Jesus.
3. Our School Board as they work to help the staff in whatever they may need.
4. God's wisdom to guide us that we may do his will in all that we do here at St. Paul's School



June Devotion: “Keep at It!”

“Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him?” Luke 18:7

Almost every week I get at least one letter from someone who has been praying for years for a family member, friend, neighbor, or coworker who doesn't know Christ. In many cases that person has eventually turned to Christ, and his or her life has been changed. But what if the person writing to me had stopped praying?

Whenever we pray, we need to remember that God's ways and God's timing aren't always the same as ours. In fact, His time frame rarely matches ours.

We also need to remember that God is able to do what we can't do. Only He can convict nonbelievers of their sins; only He can convince them of the truth of the gospel. That is why no one is hopeless, for God can break through even the hardest heart. “Is not My word....like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” Jeremiah 23:29

For whom are you praying? Keep at it!

Billy Graham



TULIPS