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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  
Sunday School: 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)

My grandmother regularly used a German expression which when translated in English meant, “Always something.” She used this expression when times of trouble would arise. You may view this expression to be one of depression. Yet, this is not how my grandmother used it. For her it simply stated a reality about life found in the pages of Scripture. Job confessed: “Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble” (Job 14:1). This trouble stems from the fact that man brought pain and trouble into the world when he sinned against God (Genesis 4:17), and nothing in life has been the same since.

Today we face all kinds of problems from a lack of rain to the coronavirus and all the havoc it has caused upon our way of life. It seems when everything is getting straightened out another problem comes to be. Yes, there is “always something.”

This could all be very discouraging for us if it were not for Jesus' promise: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). What does this mean? Shall we be free from the troubles of this life or have fewer troubles than those who don't know Christ? The Lord makes it clear that as long as we live in this world we will know troubles. In fact, as Christians we will not only know the troubles common to all mankind, but we will know additional persecutions and trials because of our Christian faith.

The comfort we have as Christians in the midst of life's troubles is God's promise: “The Lord will rescue me from every attack and will bring me safe to His heavenly kingdom” (II Timothy 4:18).

My grandmother was right in saying that there will always be some problem with which we will have to deal. More importantly, however, is that Jesus has washed away our sins and made us white in His blood” (Revelation 7:14), He now promises us that He will safely see us through all trails and troubles and in the end bring us safely into heaven's eternal bliss. “To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen” (II Timothy 4:18).

**Lessons In Stewardship: Following God’s Plan for Your Life**

Many Christians take delight in God’s words found in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” These words present a wonderful promise from God. Yet, how does one know God’s plan for his life? Jesus taught us about how to know God’s plan by the way He went about His time on earth.

Jesus could have easily been sidetracked from the Father’s plan for His life by other people and by His own disciples. The crowds wanted Jesus for His miracles. Yet, Jesus denounced the wishes of the crowds when He said: “You are looking for Me... because you ate the loaves and had your fill.” (Jesus is here referring to His miracle of the feeding of the 5,000.) “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life” (John 6:26-27). When Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He was going to Jerusalem to suffer and die, their response showed their refusal to accept this plan for Jesus’ life (Matthew 16:21-22).

Jesus could have easily lost the plan the heavenly Father had for His life which was to bring eternal prosperity to many through His death and resurrection. Jesus did not let the opinions of men deter Him from the Father’s purpose for His life, as He spent time in prayer and meeting with the Father in solitude. Jesus noted in John chapter 5: “The Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees the Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.... By Myself I can do nothing.... I seek not to please Myself but Him who sent Me” (verses 19, 30). The glorious plan of our redemption was fulfilled by Jesus, because Jesus remained in contact with the heavenly Father through time in prayer and reflection.

That we may know God’s plan for our lives, our attention is not to be focused on the views of others, but on God’s voice as He speaks to us through His Word and leads us by His Spirit. Don’t adopt someone else’s plan for your life, but follow Him who created your life, redeemed your life, and seeks to bring you to eternal glory in heaven.

***THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER EPISTLE IS AUGUST 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!

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Operating budget fund balance as of July 16, 2020- \$65,900

**This amount represents just over 5 weeks of normal day-to-day expenses of the Church and School ministries.**

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***Special Need for School Reading Curriculum***

St. Paul's School had planned an Auction Fundraiser this summer to fund the next step in updating the School's Reading Curriculum. The goal was to complete the entire remainder of the school's need of \$14,000. As we couldn't hold an auction this year due to State of Indiana Coronavirus restrictions, we are holding a "Non-Auction Fund Drive" to obtain the funding needed. If we do not receive the entire amount this summer, we will move forward with 2nd and 3rd grade updates for \$7,000. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "Reading Program" and place it in the Offering Box or in the Church Secretary's box in the Narthex.

Thank you for helping to update our school's curriculum. St. Paul's School Board

## **Board Briefs:**

### **Christian Education:**

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

#### **August Mission of the Month: Lutherans for Life**

The mission of Lutherans For Life is to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

We want to equip Lutherans to be positive, life-affirming voices that uphold the truth of the God-given value of human life, both in local congregations and in society. We strive to affirm that each human life is created and gifted by God, that each human life is someone for whom Jesus Christ died, and that each human life is someone the Holy Spirit desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him.

Our mission is to equip Lutherans so that they understand that the life issues of our time are much more than controversial political issues. They are grave spiritual issues, for they assault the Creator of Life and insult the Lord of Life.

In short, our mission is to change hearts. Those with changed hearts will change society. Only God, working through the power of His Gospel, can change hearts. That is why the Gospel motivates all that we do.

**We are a For Life group because God, in His Word, is For Life.** For more information on Lutherans for Life, go to [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

**Church Properties:** After many years of faithful service Alice Shepherd is retiring as the church custodian. Thank you for your service and dedication to St. Paul's. After Alice retires we will need a person to fill this position. Anyone interested contact Todd Haug of a member of the Board of Church Properties.

### **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!

## ***The SGO Donor Sidekick, July 2020***

**...as of 7-15-2020, there are \$16.1 million in SGO credits remaining until June 30, 2021...**

## Stewardship:

### “The fruit of the work of the Holy Spirit in us”

An athlete who is as strong as an ox and can run like the wind but has difficulty holding onto a football should not expect to have a place reserved for him in the Hall of Fame. A golfer who can drive the ball a country mile but has no short game should not have any expectation of ever wearing the green Master's jacket. A bowler who has a good strike ball but cannot pick up spares will never receive an invitation to the Tournament of Champions. To truly stand out as one who is great in a sport, an athlete must excel in all aspects of that sport .

And so it is with Christian living. To truly stand out as a light unto the world, a Christian must excel in all aspects of Christian living. The Apostle Paul addressed this in his second letter to the Corinthians with these words: “ just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

St. Paul raises a legitimate question: If you excel in so many aspects of your Christian life, how then can you choose to neglect one specific area, the grace of giving?

He answers this question in the verses which follow: “I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means”

With Christ's love residing in our hearts, this grace of giving, doing that which benefits those around us to the glory of God, is a mark of the fruit of the work of the Holy Spirit in us. It is a demonstration of the love we have toward Christ, the one who first loved us.

And we do this by the power of the Gospel as we pray each day, “In Word and Sacrament, give us the full measure of the Holy Spirit so that we may excel in everything we do according to your will, including this grace of giving. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Your Board of Stewardship

**Altar Guild:** Attendant for August is Mel Schutz.

Altar Flowers in July:

2	Jim & Janet Kaiser
9	
16	Larry & Grace Winterboer
23	
30	



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.

# St. Paul's Lutheran Women's Missionary League

*The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and The Lutheran Church-Canada in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.*

**COMING UP !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

AUGUST PROGRAM                      **Monday, August 3, 7:00 PM    THE LORD WILLING!**  
Inspirational speaker, Laurie Hayn, will be here, telling how her faith has upheld her, since suffering an horrific farm accident! All ladies are welcome!  
Hostesses: Ellen Tjernagel, Fran Ottersburg

**October 4, 2020 LWML SUNDAY**  
**South Bend Zone FALL RALLY, HERE at St. Paul's, 2:00 pm**  
**Registration: 1:30-2:00 pm**

Main Speaker: **MOST Ministries**, Church Proper  
Followed by light supper, Bethany Room (freewill offering)

*The Quarterly magazine is located in the tract rack. None there, please ask an LWML officer (Elaine Young, Linda Tinkey, Barb Middaugh, Shirley Lakins). We will try to locate one. If you have one, please return it to the rack when finished to be "passed around." Thank you.*

Program Booklets for 2019-2020, are available in the tract rack! None there? We'll find one for you.  
***WE ENCOURAGE EVERY WOMAN, CONFIRMATION AGE & ABOVE, TO CONSIDER MAKING IT A GOAL TO PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST ONE PROGRAM IN THE COMING YEAR.***  
***YOUR PRESENCE IS ALWAYS WELCOME.***

Indiana District LWML provides \$500 Scholarships for those entering full-time church work (including music ministry). If you would like to contribute any amount towards the Indiana District Scholarship Fund, you may give your gift to any LWML officer. All designated monies are passed on to the Scholarship Fund. Applications filled out now will be awarded June 2021.

Application forms may be found online, or ask Elaine for a paper copy. [lwmlindiana.org](http://lwmlindiana.org)

Indiana District is the state of Indiana and the 6 bordering counties of (northern) Kentucky!

Psalms 100:2a "Serve the Lord with Gladness" LWML motto

**ST. PAUL'S 174th LITURGICAL YEAR, AUGUST 1, 2020 – AUGUST 31, 2020**

*Upcoming Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives*

*August 2 – 9:30 am - 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
*August 9 – 9:30 am – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion*  
*August 16 – 9:30 am – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
*August 22 – 9:30 am – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion*  
*August 29 – 9:30 am – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

# 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 2020-2021 school year is SENT TO SERVE. It is based on Matthew 20:28. "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..."

***Scan your receipt on the Box Tops app for a chance to win \$20,000  
for your school. 5 schools will win!***

***Sweepstakes begins 7/15/20 and ends 11/25/20.***

***If you don't have the app you can bring your receipts to  
church/school and they will be scanned for you!***

## **Postings from Preschool**

Believe it or not, it's almost time for school! Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. Wonnacott can't wait to welcome new and returning students to class. Our preschool theme for this year is "We're Wild About Learning!" We're excited to teach the children about Jesus, along with letters, numbers, colors, shapes and much more! We appreciate your prayers for our preschool families and our staff.



## August Devotion: “Entirely His”

*Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For Your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

These days we've all had to experience some type of disconnect from people and places. Whether it's a separation from the work place or from the classroom or from friends and family, it's been an ordeal, to say the least. For many there's been the very difficult situation of being apart from loved ones who are sick. We've likely all seen the poignant images of individuals keeping their distance and looking in on a family member or friend through a window—so as not to potentially spread any disease or get it from someone else.

For believers, separation from others in the family of faith has its own difficulties, too. We draw special strength from gathering together in the Name of Jesus (see 1 Thessalonians 5:10-11; Hebrews 10:24-25; Colossians 3:16). In the *Apostles' Creed*, we speak of "the holy Christian church, the communion of saints," which gives us spiritual uplift and fellowship with one another. And you may have noticed in your own life how the recent suspension of church services has impacted your faith in some ways.

How good it is to know that there is nothing that can come between Jesus and His love for us. Whatever life brings our way—trials, persecution, a worldwide virus—we are secure in God's embracing and unchangeable love for His creatures. He has made that plainly known to us by sending His Son to save us from our sins. Jesus came specifically to *bridge* the distance that separated us from God. Having taken on our flesh and blood, God entered our world for the sole purpose of bringing us back to Him so that, never again, will we be separated from Him.

As you continue to deal with the persistent threat of this virus, lay hold of the riches God has given to us. He has reconciled us to Himself (see 2 Corinthians 5:18); He has given us all things we need to live a godly life (see 2 Peter 1:3); and He promises to be with us always (see Hebrews 13:5). These are the things He has done for us, His children, people who can in no way be separated from the God who loves them.

**THE PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, remind us by Your Holy Spirit that we are firmly in Your hands. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen. (Written by Paul Schreiber)