

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:

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)

We live in a world of mass confusion. We may contribute this confusion to a number of things, yet as I have been pondering this matter it seems that our confusion exists basically because people have forgotten the real knitter of our lives. Who do you perceive the knitter of your live to be? This is a practical question that each one of needs to address.

The Bible is very clear on this matter. The Bible begins with the concept that each and every human being, born or unborn, is knit together by God. David noted: For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, Your works are wonderful.... Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be" (Psalm 139:13-14, 16).

Two truths are laid out here. If we would acknowledge and live by these truths, a lot of the unrest in our land and world would cease. The first truth is that every human being has been created by God. All lives matter to Him, from the one still being knit in the womb to the elderly person who has become quite feeble. Whether we are black or white, America or Chinese, each one of us has been knit by the Lord God Almighty.

The second truth is that each person knit by God has a purpose for being knit by Him. Each person is endowed with a unique personality, with gifts and talents that make him who he is. God created each human being with a divine purpose in mind. In other words, when we acknowledge that God is our knitter or creator, it gives meaning and purpose to our lives and we see the importance of our lives in relationship to others.

The chief problem in the world today is that mankind has become disconnected from his Knitter. Paul writes in Colossians 2:19 that man "has lost his connection with his Head", namely, Christ. Paul saw his God-given purpose to preach and teach so that people's "hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding , in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ" (Colossians 2:2). It is, therefore, paramount that we, as people created by God with a purpose, would live our lives according to God's purpose by upholding, living, and sharing God's Truth.

Lessons In Stewardship: **The Nature of Stewardship in Prayer**

When we think of stewardship, we generally think about the use of our time, talents, and treasures. In reality, however, there is a close tie between our prayer life and stewardship.

The true purpose of prayer is not so much that we can tell God what we need as it is to submit ourselves to God’s ways and His direction for our lives. As God talks to us about prayer, He tells us to humble ourselves before Him. “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you” (I Peter 5:6-7).

Jesus showed us this aspect of stewardship in our prayer life when He humbled Himself in the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed: “Father, not My will but Yours be done.”

Jesus said: “For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother” (Matthew 12:50). Let us learn from our spiritual forefather David to pray: “Teach me to do Your will, for You are My God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness” (Psalm 143:10). This is practicing stewardship in our prayer life.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER EPISTLE IS SEPTEMBER 22ND!!! 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 August 20, 2020- \$97,100

This amount represents just over 7 weeks of normal day-to-day expenses of the Church and School ministries.

Thursday morning Women's Bible Study will not begin in September due to Covid 19.. It will not be held until further notice.

Box Tops For Education!

Since we no longer need to clip Box Tops we will have one last collection for any Box Tops you may have been saving! Bring in your clipped Box Tops and put them in the collection basket in the Narthex or hand them to a staff member to be bundled and redeemed.

Box Tops has gone to an app that requires scanning your store receipts to pull off Box Top items. If you don’t have the app you can still turn your receipts in to school and we will scan them for you. Drop your receipts off in the Box Top basket located in the Narthex or give them to a staff member for redeeming. THANK YOU!

UPDATE FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

The call committee has completed a multi-page form “Congregational Profile and Self-Study” from Indiana District as part of our preparation to receive names of possible pastoral call candidates to replace Pastor Rohde upon his retirement December 1st this year. The following is a Summary of the information that was found in the form. There was a substantial amount of statistical data provided which included items such as attendance figures for Sunday School,

Bible Classes and Worship Services, budgets, membership information and benefits/compensation information.

The form will be sent to District offices by September 1st; they will review, analyze and compare against profiles of call candidates they have on file and send us information on the pastoral candidates they feel we should consider. Our congregation can also submit names of Pastors we feel we would like to consider for the call to District so they can offer their comments back to us. If you are considering submitting a name of a Pastor to the Call Committee, we ask you to prayerfully review the Summary below as “checklist” versus the personality/traits/skills of the Pastor you wish to submit to the Call Committee for consideration. If you wish to submit a name to the Call Committee, please write down the name along with any comments you have about the Pastor you’re recommending, place in an envelope and leave it in the Lay Ministry mailbox across from the church office in the narthex at church OR email to dburcham@fourway.net. Please wait until after September 1st to submit any names.

Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers as we continue seeking God’s will for a pastor at St Paul’s.

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE AND SELF-STUDY SUMMARY

The following summary highlights the information that will be submitted to Indiana District for description of St Paul’s congregational needs for our ministry. These will help the District office and St Paul’s identify pastoral candidates that we could consider for a call.

Congregation Strengths

1. Christian Education (Preschool, Day School, Sunday School, Bible classes, Bible study groups)
2. Mission support
3. Assisting those who are in need
4. Reaching out to shut-ins
5. Scripture leads us in worship and actions
6. Membership and staff retention
7. Self-governing/autonomous

Things the congregation needs to strengthen/grow in

1. Develop a strong evangelism program
2. Recruit and develop lay leadership from congregation
3. Be more JOYFUL in worship; sing praises with enthusiasm.
4. Be a “friendlier” congregation; greet everyone, including VISITORS with appreciation for their joining us in worship; be a friend to all.
5. Open our facilities and get more involved in the community/area for a stronger outreach ministry.

Congregational Goals and Expectations for future years

1. Get more involvement from congregation members in reaching out to inactive members and to non-members.
2. Improve participation of congregation members in boards and church activities
3. Develop alternate formats for worship service

4. Continue preaching the true word of God
5. Extend our church activities INTO the community (adults and youth)
6. Engage our youth in our ministry so they feel they are a welcome part of our congregation

Two things that the congregation needs more than anything right now, to be most effective.

1. Manage changes with discernment while keeping discipline in doctrine and faithful to the scriptures; communicate with congregation.
2. Be willing to discuss changes without rationalizing “we’ve never done it that way” but do so without compromising our doctrine and with understanding of all that might be affected.

Pastoral Expectations

1. **Leadership:** Keeps congregation focused on where they are going and what they need to be doing. Encourages the support and participation of the people in the work to be done without being dictatorial.
2. **Preaching Content:** Communicate and proclaim Law and Gospel. Faithful to the Scripture and Confessions in his sermons. Preaches the word of God with faithfulness.
3. **Children’s Ministry:** Relates well to children and communicates successfully with them. Has a high regard for Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and other children’s ministries in the congregation.
4. **People Skills:** Successfully works hard at getting along with ALL people, has a pleasing personality and is sensitive, pleasant and empathetic. Is well regarded by his people/congregation and his peers.
5. **Young Adult Ministry:** Works well with 18-30 year olds and is sensitive to their special perspective on things and the needs in their lives.
6. **Youth Ministry:** Interest in and skill for working with young people. Works to equip them with God’s word, saving faith and the ability to live the Christian life. Is patient with young and understands the special challenges they face.
7. **Family Ministry:** Brings Biblical truth to bear on such issues as parenting, discipline in the family, and special issues arising in single parent families.
8. **Worship:** Leads the congregation in worship in appropriate form and manner. Carefully prepares for each worship service and leads the congregation in understanding that God is present in His Word and Sacraments and through these means of grace is delivering to His people the gifts that He has for them in Jesus Christ. Works hard to make each service Spiritually rich and nourishing.
9. **Disciplined:** Maintains a disciplined life of prayer and personal devotion.
10. **Counselor:** Counsels with people about their moral and personal problems.
11. **Personal Life:** Cultivates his home and personal life.
12. **Lay Leadership:** Identifies, recruits, trains and assists lay leaders and teachers.

Board Briefs:

Christian Education:

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

September Mission of the Month: LAMB

Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese (LAMB) was founded by Rev. James Keller in 2003 with the purpose of providing support and spreading the word of God to immigrants and refugees from Myanmar (Burma) who are living in Allen County.

A variety of services are provided to evangelize and strengthen the faith of immigrants through Worship, Bible Study, and personal visits. Many of these include materials translated into Burmese languages.

Translation of religious materials

LAMB recruits qualified Burmese volunteers to assist in the translation of religious materials into Burmese. LAMB works closely with such organizations as Concordia Publishing House (CPH), Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Myanmar Bible Society, and the Myanmar National Lutheran Church. Any costs incurred in the translation and printing of these religious materials are paid for by LAMB or are donated by individuals and other organizations. For a list of current projects, please contact Pastor Keller.

For more information go to their website: <http://lamb-fw.org>

Sunday School Offerings for the Fall Quarter September 6-November 22

Pre-K -Grade 2 Nazareth Room

This class will be studying the Old Testament from Adam and Eve to Moses and the promised land. The Class will be taught by Barb Middaugh and Kelly Thornton.

Grade 3-5 Grade 2-3 Classroom

This class will be studying the Old Testament from Adam and Eve to Moses and the promised land. Teaching this class will be Joanna Fox.

Grades 6-8 6-8 Grades Classroom

Our curriculum for this class is called Christian Character Connection. Many young people struggle with relationship issues and difficulties in understanding and accepting the perspectives of others. At the same time, they may feel incapable of understanding their own feelings and the true motives behind their actions. This series of lessons will guide them through this difficult time. This Class will be taught by Jeanette Rettinger

High School Principals Office

Todd Haug will continue with series that he left off with in March when we had to shelter in place due to covid 19.

Adult Class Bethany Room

Terry Miller will continue with the study of Apologetic getting into how to defend your faith when you are challenged.

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 or 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. 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:

The Board of Stewardship continues to explain the various Charitable and Services Agencies that our Church supports. *This month's focus is the American Bible Society.*

The American Bible Society is a Christian ministry that has been engaging people with the life-changing message of God's word for nearly 200 years. The ABS allows you to do an online search for the Bible in 100 versions in 80 different languages. It also allows you to search their collection of Bible resources including topics, people, places, and study guides. It can be found at www.americanbible.org.

By His grace, and through the authority and power of the Word, God grants His power to those called by the Gospel. This power is great, for the Gospel moves and changes sinful hearts. Just as we have received God's power freely, we also freely share the Gospel message with those around us and expect nothing in return.

With the words of Jesus ringing in our ears, "Freely you have received, freely give," we are moved by the Holy Spirit to freely and gladly share the Gospel message. In Christian liberty, we have chosen various ways to do this. Those of like mind have gathered to form a fellowship or a congregation, and these congregations have been joined together to form a church body. Church buildings, schools and seminaries have been built as a testimony to the Gospel message. We have called pastors, employed teachers and commissioned missionaries to proclaim Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Radio and television programs have been produced, along with countless advertisements, to proclaim the good news of salvation. Organizations within the church body have been formed with one goal in mind — that of telling everyone of Jesus' love for them.

We rejoice in the proclamation of the Gospel and support Christian service for the benefit of all. Because God has freely given to us, and because of His work in our hearts, we freely give. In loving service and without any expectation of gain, we give money, use our abilities and volunteer our time to freely give the Gospel message as it has been given to us.

**Freely we share the message
of God's grace in Jesus Christ,
and freely we support the method
we have chosen to do so.**

"Freely you have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8)

YOUTH NEWS and NOTES

What a blessing it was for us to gather on August 9th for our first Youth activity in several months. We had 24 Youth ranging from 4th Grade through High School ages from St. Paul's and the community join us for our Kickball Extravaganza. Our God is good in providing us this opportunity to meet in person and enjoy Christian fellowship.

Looking ahead, our Youth Board is planning additional activities for the coming months. We are excited to announce the following:

- **Wednesday evenings in September** (*beginning September 2nd*), we will have **Game Nights**. Each of the 5 Wednesdays will have a different theme. This is geared toward Youth in Grade 4 through High School, and our activity will run from 7:00-8:00 pm concluding with devotion.
- **September 11th**: Tailgate meal prior to the Bremen HS Home Football Game. We will start at 5:30 pm to allow enough time before 7:00 pm kickoff. Youth Board will provide all of the food. This activity will be for High School Youth, who we encourage to bring a friend. Youth/parents will be responsible for themselves if attending the game.
- **October** (*date to be determined*): Youth Service Project in the Bremen Community. More information to come.....

Finally, if any Youth are interested in sharing their musical talents with the congregation during upcoming church services, please contact Andy Wildauer at (801) 707-3399. This is another way for our Youth to take ownership in our services and actively participate by using their God-given abilities.

St. Paul's Youth ~Engage and Serve ~

Altar Guild: Attendant for September is Elaine Young.

Altar Flowers in September:

6 Joe & Cheryl Ervin
13
20 Helen Bellman
27



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



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..."

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. ***OVER \$7000 HAS BEEN COLLECTED WITH THE HELP OF THE CARE ACT (\$3000) AND CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT; WE HAVE MOVED FORWARD WITH THE PURCHASE OF 2ND AND 3RD GRADE CURRICULUM. WE STILL NEED \$7000 FOR THE 4TH AND 5TH GRADE CURRICULUM.*** 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

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

Thanks be to God- we began a new school year on August 17th with 22 students! The children quickly adjusted to new routines that included temperature screening and wearing masks, and we all enjoyed the beautiful weather with outdoor activities. Please pray for our staff and preschool families as we navigate this school year together and learn about our Savior who was Sent to Serve.

September Devotion: "Help In The Fight"

Hebrews 12:12-13 - Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

A boxer sits on a stool in the corner of a ring. His elbows propped up by the ropes, his gloved hands hanging limp. Blood trickles down the corner of his mouth and a raspberry-colored shiner is beginning to swell his right eye. The room is dark, steamy with sweat, and smoky as all get out.

The fighter, nearly exhausted, catches his breath after suffering a barrage of blows from an opponent he thought he could take, or at least subdue. He looks at his knees, and they're both shaking. He's wondering how much more of this he can take. His ribs are sore, his ears are ringing, and his tongue finds a gap where a tooth used to be. He didn't count on this. Ding! There goes the bell. Round two.

Isn't this the way it is sometimes? We face opponents we think we can "take," manage on our own, and in our best days maybe even *defeat*. A little pre-fight sparring and we're feeling pretty good. We dodge a few jabs, deflect a right hook or two, and pride ourselves on our catlike reflexes. We're ready to go, we tell ourselves. "Strap on the gloves, and let's get to it!" (Big mistake.)

Like the boxer here, we may have found more than we bargained for. Our physical training and personal pep talks may work against flesh and blood opponents, but on our own we're no match for the one who not only wants to knock us out but put us six feet under.

The writer of the book of Hebrews knows well the battles we face—and the One who faced them before us. That's why he says, "Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted" (Hebrews 12:4). When we're in the thick of it, when punches are coming at us left and right, we have One we can count on. He is ever present in our time of need (see Psalm 46:1). He hears us when we call (1 John 5:14-15), and we can be confident that He does.

When our knees are weak and our strength is spent, God will revive. He will quicken our hearts against the foes we face, taking over our fight and giving us the victory. "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand delivers me" (Psalm 138:7).

What a Friend we have in Jesus. He took the blows that we deserved and lifts us up when we're knocked down.

THE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we struggle with our flesh and the enemy who opposes us. Teach us to return to Your Word daily and find there the strength and courage we need for the fight. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.