

From Pastor Wonnacott's keyboard:

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**Website:**

stpaulsbremen.church  
facebook.com/stpaulsbremen  
vimeo.com/stpaulsbremen

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Sunday Schedule:**

Sunday School: 8:30 am  
Worship: 9:30 am

What Do You Need?

What are the greatest needs you have today? What do you think God would say are your greatest needs? Your answer to both questions might, or might not, include grace and peace. Now, what if God offers to supply those greatest needs? In the following text He does! Revelation 1:4b–8; <sup>4</sup> *John to the seven churches that are in Asia:*

***Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.***

***To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.***

<sup>8</sup> ***“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”***

- A. The source of grace is the One who is the Alpha and the Omega; the Beginning and the End.
- B. Jesus is the God who is, who was, and who is to come. He will never leave us.
- C. God's grace is made possible by Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead. He is our resurrection and our life. Jesus has made us children of God and heirs of heaven. He has given us life here with forgiveness and guidance. He also prepares for us a perfect eternal home with Him in heaven.

## 2. God-given Peace

- A. The source of peace is again the One who is the Alpha and the Omega.
- B. Jesus is the One who loved us.
- C. Jesus has freed us from our sins.
- D. Jesus has made us a kingdom of priests of God.

God is not just offering those blessings to you now. God is actually giving them to you now by the power of His Spirit working through His Word. God is preparing us for Christ's return. To Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

***THE DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST EPISTLE IS JULY 20TH!!!*** Epistle articles, comments, ideas may be deposited in the epistle box in the Narthex mail slots or e-mailed to Eric Thornton at firemanet@yahoo.com. I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

## Board Briefs:

### YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES

#### Recent Events

The Fireman's Festival at Sunnyside Park is an annual tradition here in Bremen. This year, our Youth Group had the opportunity to host a soda / water table for Festival attendees during an extremely HOT week. What a blessing for our Youth and adult sponsors to interact with the community in this forum. We are also extremely grateful for the donations of soda and water from the congregation to minimize our costs overall. Funds collected at the Festival go toward our general Youth fund in support of various activities we plan throughout the year.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, several of our Youth going into Grade 6 through High School took in an evening of South Bend Cubs baseball. This was a special privilege as St. Paul's very own, Kali Rose Foster, sang the National Anthem prior to the game. Afterward, those in attendance also had the opportunity to enjoy a fireworks display. It does not get much better than summer weather, baseball, and fireworks. Play ball!

#### Upcoming Events

- **July 3rd / 9:30 a.m. Church Service:** We will send off our 6 Youth attending the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX July 9th-13th.
- **July 20th / Ninja Golf:** Youth entering Grades 4 through 8 are invited to a fun evening of miniature golf, Ninja style. Cost to attend is \$5/per person; however, no charge for St. Paul's Youth who bring a friend. Youth will need money for ice cream afterward. Sign up on the Youth bulletin board through July 17th.

#### National Youth Gathering (July 2022)



Due to the generosity of this congregation and through the hard work of our Youth and sponsors, we recently reached our financial goal to cover the costs for those attending the National Youth Gathering. To God be the glory! As these young people continue to grow in their faith, please continue to keep them in your prayers. At some point after the Gathering, our Youth will have a brief presentation and Q&A regarding the event and their experience there – date/time to be determined so look for more information in the weeks ahead.

If there are any questions related to the Youth Group or the Youth Gathering, please contact Andy Wildauer at (801) 707-3399.

## **Parish Fellowship Board**

Euchre Party is Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> from 7-9:00ish pm in the Bethany Room. Anyone 16 and older can join us for fun and fellowship, and please bring a snack to share. Come and bring a friend!

## **Public Relations**

Ice Cream Social takes place on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 4pm at Yoder's Hardware in Bremen. The Boards of Public Relations and Evangelism are sponsoring this event. We need your help! We have a Thrivent card to pay for the ice cream and tableware but we need the toppings and desserts to make this a true Indiana Ice Cream Social. There will be a table in the narthex labeled Ice Cream Social with sign-up lists of what is needed. We also need workers (with the benefit of ice cream and sweets to eat while you work). This is a fun day to reintroduce St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School to the community. There will be no charge for the ice cream social.

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### **Church Office Hours**

The new hours for the church office are Monday through Friday from

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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### **From the Church Office**

If you have a change of address, please let the church office know right away so that we have your correct address on file for mailing. Or, if you spend part of the year at another address, please let us know the dates you will be at each location. The post office charges 67 cents for each piece of mail that is forwarded or returned so we are trying to keep that extra cost to a minimum. Thank you for helping with this. It is much appreciated. God's blessings to you always.

Please note that the deadline to add announcements to the bulletin is on Thursday by 9:30. That gives me time to run and fold the bulletins for Sunday service. Also, if you have a half sheet insert and get it to the church office by Tuesday then it is possible there could be room to put it on a bulletin page and not need an insert. (I know, we all hate inserts because they are ALWAYS falling out at the most inconvenient time or worse, fling themselves under the pew into the next row). You can put it in my box at church or email it to me at [janmiller@stpaulsbremen.org](mailto:janmiller@stpaulsbremen.org) I realize that sometimes this is not possible but I will try to accommodate as much as I can. Thank you for helping me with this. In His service, Janet Miller, Church Secretary.

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**Ushers:** It is very important that you find your own replacement if you are not going to be able to usher during your assigned time. Please take the time to do this so that we always have ushers available to assist our members and visitors. Thank you.

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### **Postings from Preschool**

We pray that everyone has a safe and blessed summer, and we can't wait to see the next group of students in August!

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### **From the Evangelism Board:**

On Monday, June 20th, 3 teams of 2 people delivered 32 Welcome bags in the Bremen Community to people who have recently moved into new housing! These bags included information on St. Paul's Church and School, a magnet with Church and community phone numbers on it, sticky notes and pencil, snacks, water and a home made dish cloth. To date we have delivered 110 bags! Our next delivery will take place on Monday, October 17th. The Board would like to thank all who have given of their

time and yarn to create the dish cloths and those who have been willing to pack and deliver the bags! Please pray that God would use this project to touch lives for Jesus! The board will continue to accept dish cloths for the next bag delivery and will put out more information on ways to help in the next Epistle! Contact Deb Burcham (574-220-5745) if you need yarn or have questions/suggestions.

The Board of Evangelism was busy at the Fireman's Festival with a Bible Trivia Booth! We stumped a few and had many opportunities to have fun with Bible facts while giving out prizes and information about VBS and St. Paul's School! Thank you to all who helped us man the booth!

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### **Amazon Smile Reminder**

**Attention Amazon shoppers:** Choose Amazon Smile and designate St. Paul's as the charitable recipient on your account. Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchases to our church and school. Please note this doesn't cost you anything, but is a charitable donation made by Amazon. Thanks for supporting St. Paul's through this program.

#### **SMILE when you buy!**

I don't know about you but I use to like shopping in stores. Not so much anymore. There seems to be less product available and far less associates to help. Then, if I need to return an item, it can become a hassle. Besides, it takes time and who has that available! Beside, I get all my purchase price returned, without hassle.

As much as I like to shop locally, sometimes it is hard to find the exact item I need or it needs to be ordered and that takes time. As a result, I use Amazon for many of my purchases. They have just about anything I would ever need and I can get the item within a day or two and if I need to return it, I just go to UPS and drop it off.

Since I do so much shopping on Amazon, I started using Amazon Smile for many of my purchases. Amazon Smile is a separate portal from Amazon's main site, offers the same items, prices, and benefits as Amazon.com, but with one distinct difference: When I shop on AmazonSmile, Amazon's Foundation contributes 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charity of my choice. There are many charities available but St. Paul's is the one I like.

There is no cost to the church or myself and 100% of the 0.5% donation goes to the my charity of choice, namely St. Paul's. For October through December last year, St. Paul's received a \$103.03 donation. It doesn't seem like much but since we have been in the program, we have received \$1,508.75 for our use without any obligation to either the church or ourselves.

So, if you are using Amazon, think of St. Paul's and switch over to Smile at <https://smile.amazon.com/>.

Submitted by Brian Denk, on behalf of the Board of Stewardship.

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### **What you need to know about stewardship**

A steward is someone who is appointed to take care of or look after another's property.

God created us in His image to be His managers over the world He created ([Genesis 1:27-30](#)). We are responsible to God for how we manage our lives and the resources that come into our possession because everything we have we owe to Him.

No matter where we are in our walk with Jesus, there is always a next step in stewardship.

[Psalm 24:1](#) declares, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it..." Since God made everything, knows everything, and owns everything, His perspective of how we should manage our lives and resources is perfect. God can see how our choices and decisions will affect us today and how the consequences, good or bad, will affect our families for generations. Recognizing that everything comes from God must occur before we can fully submit our finances to Him.

### **God Has Ownership; We Have Stewardship**

Generosity is God's trademark. Our God, the ultimate giver, loves us so much that He gave His Son, Jesus, so we could be reunited with Him. [John 3:16](#) says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Being created in the image of God, we embody God's DNA. When we proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we inherit the Holy Spirit. From that moment, we are no longer living for ourselves, but for our generous God, who saved us ([2 Corinthians 5:15](#)). Therefore, it's

impossible to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus without also putting God first in our finances.

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### **SGO DONATIONS**

Please don't forget to donate to St. Paul's SGO (Scholarship Granting Organization)! This last year we disbursed almost \$21,000 in scholarships to assist students with tuition in St. Paul's Lutheran School. This is a huge blessing to them and a way to minister to others!

Plus, donating to the SGO benefits you! Your donation will be given a 50% state tax credit as well as being eligible as a deductible.

For more information, contact Jennifer Harman at the school office (547-546-2790) or pick up a pamphlet from the tract rack in the narthex.

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### **Mission of the Month**

Our Sunday School continues to send \$75.00 each month to a mission.

#### **July Mission of the Month: Bremen Holy Walk**

This year's Bremen Holy Walk is set for December 9 and 10, 2022.

Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 6-9pm

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 5-9pm

Watch for more information at [www.bremenholywalk.com](http://www.bremenholywalk.com) and on Facebook.

### **OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US**

Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose "e-tithing" by



having a weekly deposit to St Paul's from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

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### Here is a report from the Board of Church Properties.

The decision was made in our last meeting to repave only the exit drive this year. We feel that the school roof is a big enough expense for this year.

With the declining state of the endowment fund more money may be needed to complete the roof project. The plan for next summer is to repave the entrance drive and seal coat, crack fill and re-stripe the parking lines.

The Gym will be closed from July 19- August 7 for floor refinishing. A special donation was given for this work. The work will take several days and after the work is done it will need the additional time to properly dry.

Are you a gardener without a garden, or someone who likes to care for plants and bushes?

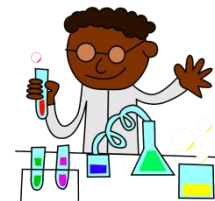
The board is looking for volunteers to help care for the landscaping around the church and school. If you are interested contact Todd Haug or one of the board members.

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## Summer Sunday School

Stay connected to God's Word and Christian fellowship throughout the Summer months. St. Paul's has something to offer everyone!

**Ages PreK—Grade 7:** "Elements of Faith" – Each week simple science experiments will be presented to help kids remember Bible stories and the reason why we put our faith in God and how it will change the way we live. Lessons include skits, crafts,



games, songs, and other fun-filled activities. Meet in the Jerusalem Room, 8:30-9:15 a.m.



**Option 2 (for Middle School grades 6-7):** Early Christians read God's Word aloud together in community. Bring your Bibles and come ready to read,

mark, learn, and inwardly digest. Gather in

Mr. Wildauer's Room, 8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m.

**Adult Bible Class (includes new Confirmands and High School age students):**

Pastor Rodney Schmeltz will lead a study and discussion on the book of Daniel . . . meets in the Bethany Room, 8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m.



**Men's Bible Study:** Men (ages 18+) meet at the Bremen Community Hospital cafeteria to enjoy breakfast and fellowship while studying God's Word and various topics. The group meets every other Wednesday, 6:30 a.m.-7:30 a.m.

**We look forward to seeing you this Summer!**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL**

**Indiana Revitalization Program for St. Paul's**

Our congregation has seen a lot of challenges in the last few years: retirement of Barb Middaugh , Ken Eichinger, Wendy Coxey and Jim Russell from the Day School and Pastor Rohde from his call as Administrative Pastor ; turmoil over Covid-19 which stopped ( for a while) in-person worship service, Bible class and Sunday School attendance. We stopped having gatherings such as potlucks and social events. We then resumed in-person attendance with "social distancing" and face masks (and controversy over face masks), implementing a second worship service for those who would not attend worship service unless social distancing and face masks were implemented for all who attended.

Once Covid-19 concerns began to diminish, we eliminated social distancing and face masks requests and encouraged everyone to attend worship service, Bible class and bring their children to Sunday School. Some members have not to attend worship service or Bible class, some have chosen to attend worship service but not Bible class and most with Sunday-School aged youth have chosen not to bring their children to Sunday School.

We have all heard or made comments about how we hope things can get back to “normal” again, although normal may have been redefined and we may not recognize it. Sometimes we need step back and listen and observe what God is telling us and sometimes we need someone from outside our congregation come in and help us listen and observe.

In the Voters Meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>, a resolution was presented by the Board of Lay Ministry based on agreement from Parish Planning Council to enroll St Paul's congregation in a Revitalization Program offered by Indiana District of LCMS. The voters approved the enrollment. This program requires that our church boards (through Parish Planning Council in one document) submit to Indiana District office of Missions a self-analysis study that helps us and District understand our past, present and future service to Christ and the Gospel. The District will send a “team” to meet with Parish Planning Council over a weekend after the self-analysis study is submitted to District to analyze our programs and activities and recommend actions that they feel will help us in our missions to members and the community. At the end of this weekend session, the District Team will present a report outlining their recommendations. We will have 45 days to decide on whether we wish to implement their recommendations. If we decide to proceed, the District Office of Missions will assist us in coaching and encouragement in implementing the recommendations for up to 18 months.

We will not know the date of the weekend session with the District Team until after they receive the unified self-analysis study from Parish Planning Council. The date of the weekend session will be announced as soon as it is set.

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry** – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship) **Newsletter Article** – July 2022

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### **New Testament Standard Giving**

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Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “what

must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all

the work of your hands that you do.” (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

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## **Acknowledging and Overcoming Acedia (Part 2 of 3)**

Submitted by Angie Hughes for the Board of Evangelism

This is the continuing look at “Consider the Ant” from the March 2022 edition of The Lutheran Witness which dealt with the concept of acedia, or sloth in one’s faith life. Author Jason Braaten explains how acedia can inhibit our actions to avoid potential pain.

In the first installment we showed the first way that acedia can manifest in our faith life, distraction. Now we look at the next possible manifestation.

**Indifference** – We may also respond in a second way: indifference. A hard-hearted indifference “believes in nothing...[and] only remains alive because there is nothing it would die for.” God spare us from being so empty and shallow.

We also struggle with a soft indifference. It is not that we believe in nothing, but that we believe in merely some things. This indifference cannot be bothered to care about everything the Lord has laid upon us. It looks at the tasks that lie ahead, then it shrugs and says under its breath: “Whatever.”

This thinking reduces all of what God has given us to merely some of it. Fathers indulge this indifference if they think they have fulfilled God’s vocational commands merely by going to work to provide food and clothing, house and home for those placed under their care. They come home, kick back and relax while there remains more “adulting” to do. They think they have done it all by doing only this part. They are indifferent toward all the other things – family devotions, catechizing children, conversing with family, helping with homework, completing home repairs and teaching others to do the same. These fathers are not indifferent in every way, but in some ways. And they have used our rich doctrine of vocation to justify slothful indifference.

This indifference has influenced the mindset of our young also. If you listen to the prophets of despair in the news, our youth inhabit a world of doom and gloom – rising debts and sea levels, seemingly no prospects for jobs or families. Our youth no longer ask how they can have it all (career, marriage, children), but whether it is worth doing any of it. Instead of trying, they opt for hedonism: “Let’s eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.” This reduces enjoyment of God’s provision to what he provides now instead of waiting in hope to enjoy what he has promised in the future. But the result is the same: We miss out on everything God gives because we reduced it to some.

Has God not promised to bless all that he gives? We use our rich theology to justify indifference and inaction because the work is painful, difficult and demanding. Its yield may not be seen perhaps for years or only by those who succeed us. We should not avoid the pain: “The only long-range solution to pain, whether physical or spiritual is to listen to what it is telling us. It is a symptom.”

Will we really stand before the One who called us and say, “Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours” **(MATT. 25:24-25)?**

**Consider the ant** – How do we combat our immediate, knee-jerk reactions to sloth? Solomon tells his son to consider the ant: “Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest” **(PROV. 6:6-8)** What does the ant do? She acts in accordance with how God created her. She

does what needs to be done. She keeps on keeping on until she is done. No one stands over her shoulder telling her what to do. The ant just does.

There is a parallel here for us. No one watches over our shoulder or drives us to do the work in our vocations that must be done. We have commands from our Father in heaven, but we are not given the exact manner in which to do them.

Do we make use of that freedom to begin work while it is day? Or do we allow this freedom to stymie us? Do we use this freedom to chase distractions from the pain of that work, to become indifferent? Consider the ant.

Do I too often not acknowledge my distraction and indifference? If I do acknowledge it, what then? I tend to lean heavily on the grace we treasure. Maybe there's a better way.

In the next segment, we will look at Rev. Braaten's remedy to the acedia in our lives.

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*Then one of the elders addressed me, 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 is a thing worth? Sometimes figuring out the worth of a thing can be a difficult task.

There are things which bring back memories; there are things which are heirlooms or antiques; there are things which are personally precious to us as individuals. The value on those items is far more to us than anyone else would be willing to pay if the item were put up for auction.

Here is an example: there is a little piece of silk in a Springfield, Illinois, museum. If you were to go to a fabric store, and if they would be willing to sell you a piece of cloth so small, it would cost you no more than a penny or two. That being said, there is no amount of money which would enable you to purchase this piece of silk. That's because this bit of cloth is stained with blood.

Now that is an interesting fact, but that fact hardly explains why this bit of material is considered to be so precious. Its value only becomes clear when you are told this bit of silk was once part of the dress worn by the girl who sat in the presidential box the

night Abraham Lincoln was murdered. As he was dying, she cradled his head in her lap, just as a mother might hold her child.

It is his blood which has stained that cloth.

Long ago the State of Illinois bought that dress, cut out that piece of silk, and placed it out for public viewing so all could see. Because of the blood of a great man, that pitiful piece of fabric has a value beyond reckoning.

So, let me now ask you, *what are you worth?*

Looking at your sinful soul, at all the transgressions you have committed, the answer would have to be, "Not much. Not much at all." But when a person is brought to faith, when those sins are washed away by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, things change.

Your soul, which once was condemned to eternal punishment in hell, has been given new value, a wonderful value. At the cost of the life of God's Son, our Savior, you have been washed of your sins; the old is gone and a new value is placed upon you.

Knowing your value ought to make a difference in your life. Because you know that Jesus lived, died and rose to rescue you, you can be assured that nothing in your past and nothing anybody else says can change the value God has given you. Because of Jesus' blood, you have become priceless.

My priceless friends, believe it and live it.

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, I give thanks that by the Holy Spirit's power, I have been brought to faith and my sin-saturated soul has been washed in Jesus' blood. Now may I live a life which glorifies Him and bears witness to the transforming power of the Redeemer. It is in His Name I pray. Amen.

**God's Wonder Lab** has been a great blessing for children of our congregation, school, and community. Close to 60 have attended each day through Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Since VBS is still in progress, there will be a complete report in next month's Epistle.

The Board of Christian Education would like every member to read the Bible in one year. Every month in the Epistle we will publish a daily reading. This reading schedule is in accordance with



Martin Luther's suggestion: "But let the entire Psalter, divided in parts, remain in use and the entire Scriptures, divided into lections, let this be preserved in the ears of the church." We hope that you find this daily lectionary reading be inspirational to you.

## Read the Bible in a Year – Readings for June

### July

1	Deuteronomy 32:1-4 1 Samuel 28-31	2	Psalm 28 2 Samuel 1-3
<b>3</b>	<b>Psalm 29</b> 2 Samuel 4-6	<b>4</b>	<b>Psalm 30</b> 2 Samuel 7-9
5	Psalm 31 2 Samuel 10-12	6	Psalm 32 2 Samuel 13-15
<b>7</b>	<b>Psalm 33</b> 2 Samuel 16-18	<b>8</b>	<b>Psalm 34</b> 2 Samuel 19-21
9	Psalm 35 2 Samuel 22-24	10	Psalm 36 1 Kings 1-2
<b>11</b>	<b>Psalm 37</b> 1 Kings 3-6	<b>12</b>	<b>Psalm 38</b> 1 Kings 7-8
13	Psalm 39 1 Kings 9-11	14	Psalm 40 1 Kings 12-14
<b>15</b>	<b>Psalm 41</b> 1 Kings 15-17	<b>16</b>	<b>Psalm 42</b> 1 Kings 18-20
17	Psalm 43 1 Kings 21-22	18	Psalm 44 2 Kings 1-3
<b>19</b>	<b>Psalm 45</b> 2 Kings 4-6	<b>20</b>	<b>Psalm 46</b> 2 Kings 7-9
21	Psalm 47 2 Kings 10-12	22	Psalm 48 2 Kings 13-15
<b>23</b>	<b>Psalm 49</b> 2 Kings 16-18	<b>24</b>	<b>Psalm 50</b> 2 Kings 19-22
25	Psalm 51 2 Kings 23-25	26	Psalm 52 1 Chronicles 1-5
<b>27</b>	<b>Psalm 53</b> 1 Chronicles 6-10	<b>28</b>	<b>Psalm 54</b> 1 Chronicles 11-15
29	Psalm 55 1 Chronicles 16-20	30	Psalm 56 1 Chronicles 21-25
31	Deuteronomy 32:1-4 1 Chronicles 26-29		

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 2022

## ANNIVERSARIES

4	Eric & April Miller	22	Derek & Whitney Nick
11	Larry & Vicki Miller	25	Larry & Tammy Britt
12	Michael & Donna Gordon	29	Bill & Jamie Rogers
16	Michael & Marilyn Gumz	30	Scott & Tonya Hundt
20	Ken & Anita Eichinger		
	Larry & Joyce Evans		
	Terry & Penny Holderman		

## BIRTHDAYS

1	Cleon Felton Debra Sahlhoff	19	Linda Ringle
2	Gabby Barts	20	Cheryl Ervin Brad Sahlhoff John Sahlhoff
3	Terri Davis Lillian Pulliam	21	Makayla Fox
4	Amanda Smith	22	Claire Schmidt
6	LeeAnna VanSoest	24	Brian Clark
11	Dan Fox	26	Jase Garrett Dennis Siencki
12	Lori Haug Mary Kaser	27	Gabriel Mejia
15	Carol Hardy	28	Barb Middaugh
16	Cordall Schoning	29	Kevin Furman
17	Robert Koontz Lacey Shumaker	30	Karie Furman Diana Stuckman
18	Felix Trigg	31	Robert Bowen Mary Ingle Carol Kramer Laura Wirgau

St. Paul's Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
*As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions,  
and equip women to honor God by serving others.* Adopted 2021

!!! ON THE CALENDAR !!!

**August 1, 2022 - MONDAY 7:00 p.m., Bethany Room - Phil's Friends of Crown Point -**  
this group ministers to those suffering with cancer, both in the hospital and at homes. OPEN TO  
THE CONGREGATION. Refreshments will be served.

**August 3, 2022 – Executive Board meets to plan 2023  
Calendar -** Any ideas to consider will be greatly appreciated.  
Current officers to contact: Elaine Young; Linda Tinkey; Barb  
Middaugh; Shirley Lakins (or newly elected treasurer,  
Jeanette Rettinger, who will take over in October.

**Eyeglass Ministry - MOST Ministries** (Mission Opportunities Short-Term)

Adult & Children's: Non-prescription Sunglasses; Reading Glasses; Bifocals (*any style frame, but  
in good condition*). The collection box is located beneath the 'Bulletin Table.'

*Psalm 100:2a* “Serve *the* Lord with Gladness” *LWML motto*

**St. Paul's 176th LITURGICAL YEAR † July 1, 2022 – July 31, 2022**

*Worship Opportunities to Bless Our Lives* \* Celebration Of Holy Communion

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

July 5	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	July 10*	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
July 17	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	July 24*	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
July 31	8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost		

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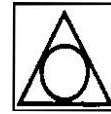
*July Minor Festivals* 25 St. James The Greater, Apostle ● Commemorations 6 Isaiah ● 16  
Ruth ● 20 Elijah ● 21 Ezekiel ● 22 St. Mary Magdalene ● 28 Johann Sebastian Bach, Kantor  
1685-1750 ● 29 Mary, Martha, & Lazarus of Bethany, Friends of Jesus ● 30 Robert Barnes,  
Confessor & Martyr 1495-1540 ● 31 Joseph Of Arimathea ●

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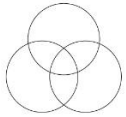
The Time of the Church: Sundays after Trinity Sunday are designated Weeks after Pentecost.  
With only a few exceptions, the color is green.

Trinity symbols: the 'unique', and oldest symbol is The Equilateral Triangle, representing Unity in Trinity and Trinity in Unity. Though it has three sides, it forms one

figure. Because each 'leg' is the same length, it shows the three



Person of the Trinity are equally God. Δ



The next two symbols are often used as embroidery emblems, because of their graceful and artistic forms. The Triquetra forms one continuous line of three equal arcs. The Three Circles, representing eternity and unity, are intertwined to form only one figure, while showing three distinct circles. Δ

The Trinity banner's symbol is The clover-shaped. The individual symbols Manus Dei, the Hand of God. Usually commanded not to make any kind of Extended downward, it shows blessing Agnus Dei, Lamb of God, from as God's own sacrificial Lamb, The Lamb w/Cross and The Holy Spirit is depicted by the Triangle and Trefoil. A Trefoil is for the Persons of the Trinity are: it is only the hand, as we are image and call it God/the Creator. towards mankind. For Christ, the John 1:29, where Jesus is announced offered for the sins of all men. Staff denote His Passion. Flame, which is connected with the Spirit's gifts, faith, witnessing, proclaiming the Gospel, and missionary zeal. Δ



The Three Nails, in the INRI window and on the black paraments. Western art uses three for two reasons: 1) the belief that Jesus' feet were crossed and one nail pierced both, and 2) three is the number of the Trinity, so the symbol represents that all three Persons of the Godhead are active in our salvation. Δ

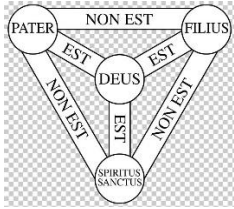
The fish symbol (vesica), used alone represents Jesus. The Three Fish

symbol (from the Chrismon Tree) shows that man's salvation comes



from the Triune God - and Jesus is True God. Each fish is equal in size

and shape. The Greek word for 'fish,' ΙΧΘΥC, makes the acrostic: Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. Δ



The Shield of the Trinity, which employs the equilateral triangle, circles, and a doctrinal statement of Christian belief (usually in Latin) of the Triune God. Corner circles say Father (Pater), Son (Filius), and Spirit (Spiritu Sanctus); the center one says God (Deus). The lines leading from circle to circle say is not (non est), while those to the center say is (est). Therefore, the Father is not the Son or the Spirit, the Father is God; the Son is not the Father or the Spirit, the Son is God; the Spirit is not the Father or the Son, the Spirit is God.  $\Delta$  Usually in Christian symbolism and art, the use of any three identical or repetitive symbols is meant to evoke the remembrance of the Triune God. The 'Holy, Holy, Holy' of the green altar cloth is an example; or the 'Triple Amen' after the Benediction; or the 'Three Clusters of Grapes' at the base of each stained-glass window. The parament color for Festivals of the Triune God, of the Father, or of the Son is White: Christmastide, Epiphany Day, Maundy Thursday, Eastertide, Ascension, Christ the King Sunday (Son); Trinity Sunday (God); Thanksgiving, (Father). The color for Festivals of the Holy Spirit is Red: Pentecost, Confirmation (we cannot confess The Faith without Him), Ordination (holy calling to the ministry), Dedication of Church Building/Congregation Anniversary (only by His power is a congregation kept pure and holy in The Faith); also used on Mission Sundays.

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I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

*Luther's Small Catechism, Third Article, Apostles Creed*

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***“...no one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”*** I Corinthians 12:3b