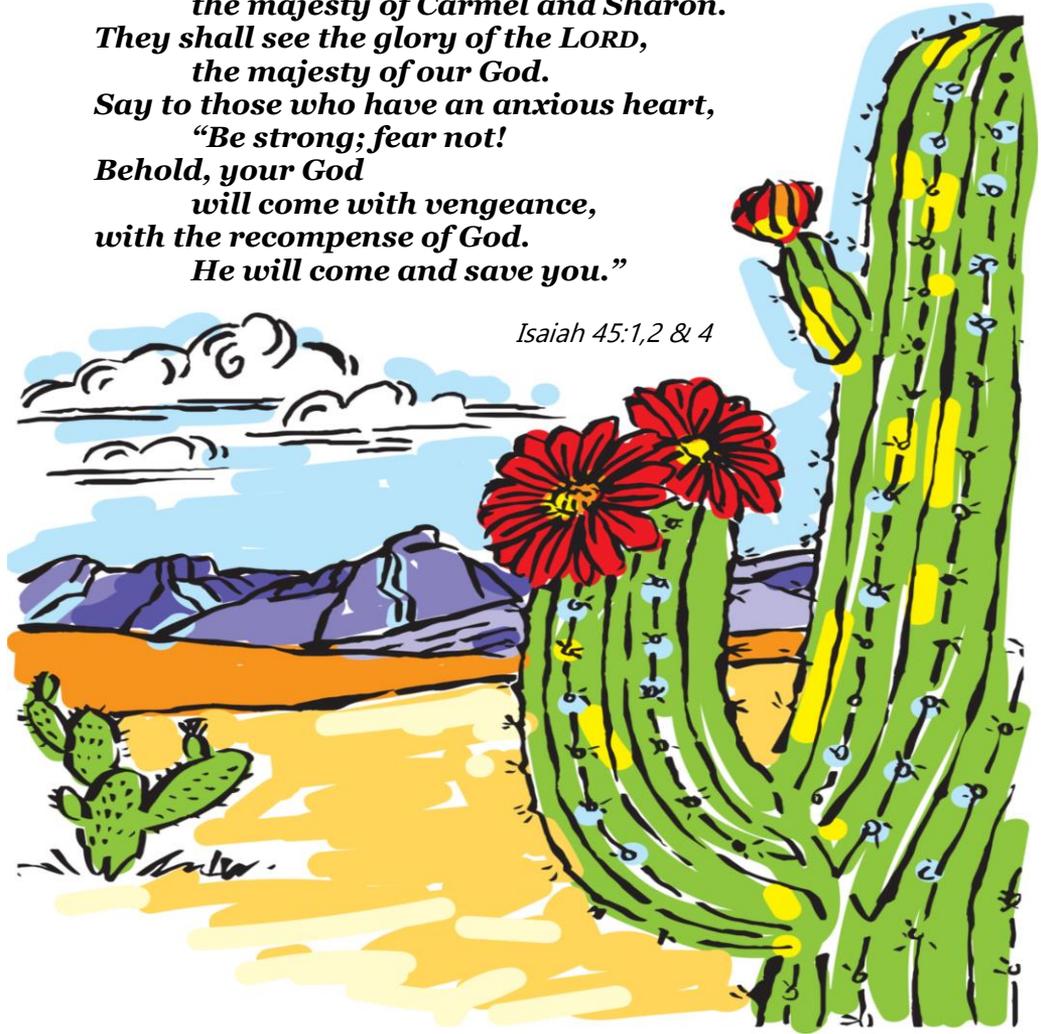


***The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.  
Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”***

*Isaiah 45:1,2 & 4*



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS  
605 South Center Street  
Bremen, Indiana 46506  
574.546.2332  
stpaulsbremen.church

The season of Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation—not only for December 25<sup>th</sup>, but even more for the second coming of Christ. Christians live in constant hope for that day. But during the season of Advent, our longing becomes more explicit and acute. The annual celebration of the incarnation reminds us that, as surely as Christ first came hidden as a newborn child, so also will He come again with glory for all to see.

***The Lord's Supper*** is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

**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.

**Children Leaving the Sanctuary:** This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. Thank you

**God's Word tells us that children are a blessing from the Lord – Psalm 127:3.** We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you need to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

**Bell Choir** "Oh Come, Little Children"

**Opening Hymn 342** "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

**C Amen.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

**C Amen.**

**Adult Choir** "How Far Is It to Bethlehem"

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.  
Shall we find a stable room lit by a star?  
Can we see the little Child, is He within?  
If we lift the wooden latch may we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there-oxen or sheep?  
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?  
If we touch His tiny hand will He awake?  
Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?

Great kings have precious gifts, and we have naught,  
little smiles and little tears are all we brought.  
Here, on His bed of straw sleep, children sleep.  
God in His mother's arms babes in the byre,  
sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

**Introit**

*Psalm 71:14-18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

**P** Rejoice in the Lord always;

**C** **again I will say, Rejoice.**

**P** I will hope continually

**C** **and will praise You yet more and more.**

**P** My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all the day,

**C** **for their number is past my knowledge.**

**P** With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;

**C** **I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.**

**P** O God, from my youth You have taught me,

**C** **and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.**

**P** So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

**C** **until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P** Rejoice in the Lord always;

**C** **again I will say, Rejoice.**

**Kyrie** ~ Lord, Have Mercy (*Mark 10:47*)

*LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

*LSB 156*

**P** The Lord be with you.

*(2 Timothy 4:22)*



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26*

**P** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

**C** **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

**P** Behold, your King is coming to you;

**C** **righteous and having salvation.**

**P** Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C** **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

### Epistle

James 5:7–11

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia and Verse *(John 6:68)*

*LSB 156*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to Him, "Are You the One who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
who will prepare Your way before You."

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He**

**suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

**Hymn 347** "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

**Sermon Text**

Isaiah 35:1–10

**Sermon** "Vengeance and Joy"

God Will Come with Vengeance to Bring Life to the Wilderness.

1. Life in the wilderness is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God promises to come into the wilderness with \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Our celebration of Christmas invites us to rejoice in advance of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Together as a congregation, and individually in our respective vocations, we proclaim this promise to encourage those who remain \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hymn 349** "Hark the Glad Sound"

**Prayers**

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

**Preface**

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.

*(2 Timothy 4:22)*



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

*(Colossians 3:1)*



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*(Psalm 136)*



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus** ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9) *LSB 161*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

### Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### Pax Domini ~ The Peace of the Lord (John 20:19)

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

**Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God (John 1:29)**

*LSB 163*

**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**Hymn 628** "Your Table I Approach"

**Hymn 633** "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

**Hymn 619** "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"

**Hymn 643** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

**Thank the Lord**

*LSB 164*

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.  
He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy  
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

*LSB 166*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



## Closing Hymn 515 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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**The flowers that adorn the altar today** are given by Beth & Larry Enders in celebration of their wedding anniversary and Christie Wonnacott's birthday. All praise and glory to our Heavenly King for His many blessings to us.

**I would like to thank all those who lifted me up in prayer** for my shoulder surgery and for the cards and Christian love you have shown to me as I continue to heal. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! In His love, Gloria Kiefer.

**Thank you so much for all the thoughts and prayers** for Ericca and Grayli. They are now home and doing great. God's blessings, Eric & Kelly Thornton.

**The Residents for Oakhaven** would like to thank St. Paul's for the delicious Thanksgiving dinner. God bless you all!

**Epiphany Lutheran Church an LCMS sister congregation** in Jackson, MS was completely destroyed by an arsonist on November 8<sup>th</sup>. They lost the building and everything in it. There is a box in the narthex next to the offering box If you would like to make a donation. **Today is the last day we will be collecting** but you can always help out by sending a check to Southern District LCMS, 100 Mission Drive, Slidell, LA 70460. 100% of the donations will go to help Epiphany rebuild. **In all things, God WILL BE glorified!**

**Today, Sunday, December 11, LWML** will fill "Cheer Boxes" for St. Paul's home-bound members. If you would like to donate baked goods, please bring 1 1/2 to 2 dozen individually wrapped items to the Church kitchen on Sunday, Dec. 11. Thank you.

**Congregational Christmas Caroling is today at 4:00.** You are invited to come make a joyful noise unto the Lord and to the shut-ins of our church and community. We will meet in the Bethany room at 4:00 pm to break up into groups before going out to sing. We will return to the church at 6:00 pm for dinner and fellowship. Please bring a dessert to share at the meal. **All children must be accompanied by an adult. *Come and Share the Good News of Christmas!!!***

**Advent Service this Wed., December. 14<sup>th</sup>.** Please join us at 6:00 pm as Parish Fellowship serves us soup, salad and sandwiches. Come enjoy good food and fellowship followed by worship at 7:00 pm as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior and King. There will also be a free will offering for the Liberian Children's Ministry.

### **CHRISTIAN MEN - AWAKE!**

If you're at least 18 years of age, wake up on Wednesday morning every other week and join in a Bible Study at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria conference room at 6:30 A.M.. Enter the cafeteria area entrance on the south side patio to the left of the main entrance portico (presently the covid testing drive-thru). The cafeteria has an excellent breakfast menu and we enjoy our study with discussion and fellowship until 7:30 A.M. Bible study is a means of strengthening our understanding of God's plan for us and strengthening our faith, which we all can use in the daily challenges we face. Bring your Bible and join us as we study, eat and fellowship! The dates left to meet in 2022 are as follows: 12/14, 12/28  
*If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.*

The new Portals of Prayer for January-March are currently available in the tract rack.

### Calendar of Events

<b>TODAY</b> .....	<b>December 11, 2022</b>
Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service with Communion.....	9:30 am
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade PUBLIC School Confirmation .....	After Church
Adult Basketball in the Gym.....	2:00-4:00 pm
Congregation Christmas Carolling.....	4:00 pm
Christmas Caroler’s Dinner .....	6:00 pm
No Bell or Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	
<b>MON:</b>	
Basketball at MCAC .....	5:30/6:30 pm
<b>TUES: Pastor Wonnacott on Vacation</b> .....	<b>All Day</b>
Basketball at Immanuel Valpo.....	5:30/6:30 pm
<b>WED:</b>	
Men’s Breakfast Bible Study .....	6:30 am
Day School Chapel .....	8:05 am
Advent Dinner-soup, salad & sandwiches .....	6:00 pm
Advent Worship Service .....	7:00 pm
<b>THURS:</b>	
Ladies Bible Study .....	9:30 am
Preschool Chapel .....	9:30 am <b>FRI:</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b> .....	<b>December 18, 2022</b>
Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service.....	9:30 am
No Bell or Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	

**Voters’ Assembly Minutes** – Copies of the minutes from the Monday, November 28 regular Voters’ Assembly meeting are available on the table in the narthex. The minutes include information regarding the approved budget for 2023. If the supply has run out and you desire a copy for yourself, please contact Ken Eichinger. If you prefer an electronic copy, email Ken at [keneichinger@gmail.com](mailto:keneichinger@gmail.com).

**2023 Church and Schools Budget:** Copies of the 2023 Church and Schools Budget can be found on the table in the Narthex next to the Offering Box. Should you desire a copy to review, please take one.

**The door offering for Meals on Wheels taken at the end of October** resulted in \$370 to benefit the program. We currently deliver 12 hot meals every week day in the Bremen community. The program boasts 12 volunteers who deliver nourishment and smiles. Meals are prepared at cost by Bremen Community Hospital. Thanks for supporting this essential program!

**Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1** The Board of Christian Education is making available copies of the Lutheran Book of Prayer. The book contains 28 days of morning and evening prayer focused on individual and communal spiritual health. Join us in spending the first 28 days of 2023 praying together in unity. Books are available in the narthex or from any board member.

### **YOUTH NEWS**

**Practices for the Christmas Eve** service will continue today following the church service, with additional practices next Sunday (December 18th) and most likely before the service on the 24th. These next two practices will last approximately an hour and we request regular attendance so we can properly prepare for this opportunity to share the Christmas Gospel message, especially as we will be utilizing a new format this year. If you have any questions, please contact Andy Wildauer.

### **SCHOOL CORNER**

Christmas is in the air at the school! If you visit the classrooms, you will notice bright Christmas lights, decorated trees, Advent wreaths, and nativity scenes (along with our new partitions!). The students are practicing their recitations and songs for the **Children's Christmas Service, December 21<sup>st</sup> (7:00pm)**. Classroom parties are being planned. Excitement and activity abound as we prepare to celebrate the greatest Birthday known to man- the Birth of our Savior! Let us all, students and adults alike, pause in our festivities to meditate on Jesus's birth and center our focus back on Him.

The Preschool and Kindergarten classes enjoyed a Christmas Scavenger Hunt, with crafts and refreshments, on Thursday, the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**We thank our teachers, support staff, and volunteers for all the hard work they are doing during this busy time of year.** We also thank those of you who have helped with the new partitions- You know who you are!

Thank you for your support of PTL's Popcorn Fundraiser! We made over \$900, which will be used to purchase items and help assist the school. **Popcorn orders will be available to pick up on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>.**

If you are interested in serving the school and interacting with the students as a substitute teacher, please see Nathan Miller or Jennifer Harman. A substitute teaching license (easily obtained from the state) and a background check are required. We also love to have volunteers who read with and assist the students!

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### **Please don't forget to donate to the SGO!**

You can find several (easy) ways to donate at [www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate](http://www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate). Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. **We have provided scholarships for 26 students!** These scholarships make a big difference for our families.

**We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.**

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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**BREMEN  
CHILDREN'S  
CHOIR**

# *Christmas Concert*

**Friday, December 16 | 6:30 p.m.**

**Bremen Community & Performing Arts Center  
214 E. South St., Bremen**

Enjoy a performance by the Bremen Children's Choir  
and other local musical guests.

refreshements & special art exhibit by St. Paul's  
students to follow in lower level

[facebook.com/bremencommunitycenter](https://facebook.com/bremencommunitycenter)



**Bremen**  
Community and  
Performing Arts Center