

Therefore the Lord Himself
will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall
conceive and bear a Son,
and shall call His name
Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14



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

It is exactly one week before Christmas. In six days, the sanctuary will be much fuller than normal. Many who are usually absent from worship will be present. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas rightly, this Sunday provides an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be present – for us and for God.

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 "O Sleep Now, Holy Baby"

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

✠ 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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *(Hebrews 10:22)*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth. *(Psalm 124:8)*

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *(Psalm 32:5)*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"

1. Praise ye the Lord of hosts, sing His salvation,
bless His name, show forth His praise in His holy house!
Praise ye the Lord of hosts, sing His salvation,
bless His name, show forth His praise in His holy house!

2. Rejoice, ye heavn's, and be joyful on earth,
Rejoice in the face of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia.
Rejoice, ye heavn's, and be joyful on earth,
Rejoice in the face of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalms 130:5-8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

- P** Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down,
C **that the mountains might quake at Your presence.**
P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
C **and in His word I hope;**
P my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
C **more than watchmen for the morning.**
P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
C **and with Him is plentiful redemption.**
P And He will redeem Israel
C **from all his iniquities.**

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** Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down,
C **that the mountains might quake at Your presence.**

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

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Solo by Kali Rose "Out of This World"

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when He knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the Boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

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 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be

the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through Whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and they shall call His name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name JESUS.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Hymn 333 "Once He Came in Blessing"

Sermon Text

Isaiah 7:10–17

Sermon "This Present Sign"

1. With a few exceptions, the people of God have often experienced life in a way that makes them think _____

_____ .

2. Ahaz actually only continued a millennia-old theme of God's people _____ .

3. Despite his and our doubts, Isaiah spoke God's Word that

_____ .

God Promises to Be Graciously Present in His Creation through Jesus.

4. God's presence in Christ is _____ .
5. God's presence in the world today is made known through His people as they _____ .

Hymn 348 "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

Prayers

Lord's Prayer (*Matthew 6:9-13*) *LSB 162*

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.**

Benedicamus ~ Let Us Bless (*Psalms 103:1*) *LSB 202*

- P** Bless we the Lord.



- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction (*Numbers 6:24-26*) *LSB 202*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



- C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn "919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

Acknowledgments

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Calendar of Events

TODAYDecember 18, 2022

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am

Worship Service..... 9:30 am

No Bell or Adult Choir Rehearsal.....

MON:

TUES:

Basketball at Montessori Mishawaka5:30/6:30 pm

WED:

Preschool & Day School Chapel..... 11:00 am

Children's Worship Service..... 7:00 pm

THURS: Christmas Break – No School or Preschool

FRI: Christmas Break – No School or Preschool

SAT: Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship Service7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Christmas Day!December 25, 2022

Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am

No Bell or Adult Choir Rehearsal.....

Advent Service this Wed., December 21st. Please join us at 7:00 pm for this special worship service as our children lead us in sharing the Good News about the birth of our Savior and King, Jesus Christ. You are also welcome to join us after the service in the Bethany room for a time of fellowship as we enjoy cookies and punch.

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Spanish language hymnals are available on the cart in the Narthex if you know of anyone who could benefit from one to follow along in worship. These are also available if you are wanting to invite someone to worship with us who would like to use one. *(Los himnarios en español están disponibles en el carrito en el Narthex si conoces a alguien que pueda beneficiarse de uno para seguir en la adoración. Estos también están disponibles si desea invitar a alguien a adorar con nosotros que desee usar uno.)*

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

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 an additional practice on Christmas Eve before the service on the 24th. More information to be given to the Youth regarding the Christmas Eve practice. If you have any questions, please contact Andy Wildauer.

SCHOOL CORNER

How quickly the Advent/Christmas Season progresses! We are lighting the fourth candle on our Advent wreaths and, for the school, Christmas break is around the corner. Our middle school band students performed their Christmas concert last Tuesday at BPS. The entire school continues to practice recitations and songs for the **Children's Christmas Service, December 21st (7:00pm)**. We have been teaching the students about the different names of Jesus, the miracle of Jesus's birth and the reason for His coming, and how we prepare our hearts for Christmas-Indeed, how we should continually prepare for His coming!

While Christmas is a big part of our focus, St. Paul's basketball team has started its competitive season. We played the Mishawaka Wildcats last Monday and plan to play Montessori in Mishawaka on the 20th. We have home games coming up in January. Please join us in cheering for our kids! More information on away game location can be obtained from Mark Wildauer.

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. 16th or 18th.**

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!

Please don't forget to donate to the SGO!

You can find several (easy) ways to donate at 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.

Servants for Today's Worship December 18, 2022

Rev. Neil Wonnacott
Organist: Anita Eichinger
Ushers: Joe Hughes & Jim Mitchell
Acolyte: Kamden Guse
Elder: Dennis Sienicki
Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship December 25, 2022

Rev. Neil Wonnacott
Organist: Anita Eichinger
Ushers: Curt Nielsen & Wayne Spicher
Acolyte: Colton & Reuben Napper
Elder: Terry Miller
Communion Assistant: Dave Burcham
Tender: Rod Schroeder
Video Streamer: Tyler & Dakota Schmeltz