



***For I determined not to know
anything among you except
Jesus Christ and Him crucified.***

1 Corinthians 2:2

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

Like every season of the church year, Epiphany is about the cross. God has manifested His saving work in “Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (*Epistle*, 1 Cor 2:2). The particular focus of this week is the difference between the unregenerate and the regenerate, between those who are only “natural” and the “spiritual” who have been enlightened by the Spirit through the message of the cross (1 Cor 2:13–14).

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 "It Is Well with My Soul"

Opening Hymn 578 "Thy Strong Word"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

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.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 119:9-16; antiphon: v. 12

P Blessèd are You, O LORD;

C teach me Your statutes!

P How can a young man keep his way pure?

C By guarding it according to Your word.

P With my whole heart I seek You;

C let me not wander from Your commandments!

P I have stored up Your word in my heart,

C **that I might not sin against You.**

P Blessèd are You, O LORD;

C **teach me Your statutes!**

P With my lips I declare

C **all the just decrees of Your mouth.**

P In the way of Your testimonies I delight

C **as much as in all riches.**

P I will meditate on Your precepts

C **and fix my eyes on Your ways.**

P I will delight in Your statutes;

C **I will not forget Your word.**

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 Blessèd are You, O LORD;

C **teach me Your statutes!**

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.

Gloria in Excelsis ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

LSB 187

(Luke 2:24; John 1:29)



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



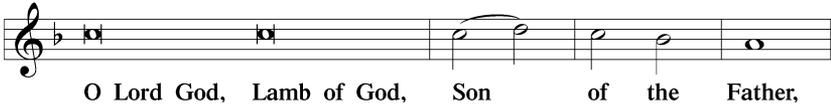
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



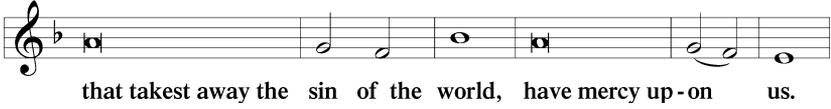
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



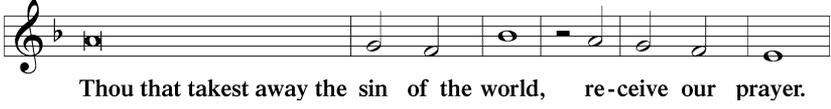
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



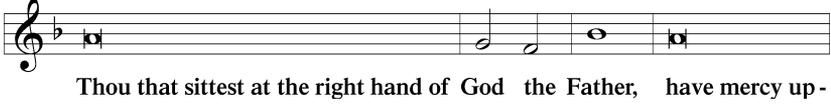
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



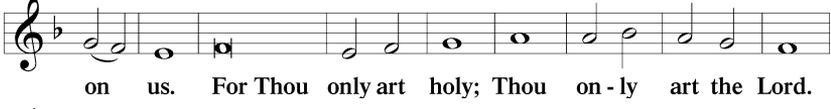
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



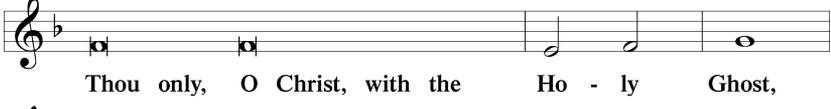
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



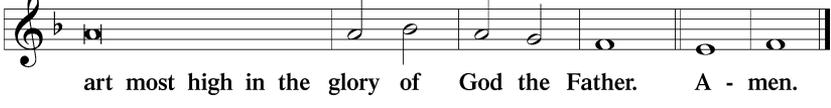
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

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.
O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:3–9a

³“Why have we fasted, and You see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and You take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 117:1-2a; Psalm 96:8

P Praise the LORD, all nations!

C **Extol Him, all peoples!**

P For great is His steadfast love toward us,

C **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

P Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

C **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 2:1–16

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love Him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?” But we have the mind of 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 5:13–20

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



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

G 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 412 “The People That in Darkness Sat”

Sermon Text

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Sermon “The Light of the Cross”

1. St. Paul says, “I decided to know nothing among you except

_____” (v 2).

2. So, the cross teaches us the Gospel, but it also teaches us about

the Law—that is, it teaches us how to live—and it changes

_____.

3. While the light of the cross speaks to every issue, it especially

speaks _____.

Hymn 523 “O Word of God Incarnate”

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 904 "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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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 we will meet in 2023 are as follows: 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22, 4/5, 4.19, 5/3, 5/17, 5/31, 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, 9/6, 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13, 12/27

If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.

Join Us ~ Women of St. Paul's please join us on Saturday at 11:00 am in the Jerusalem room. We will begin with prayer and then read GOD's Word together as a community. You will never be asked to do anything you are not comfortable doing. Just show up, be with the other women, and listen. For more information call Kelly Sienicki 574-361-7728 or email Kelly at kellysienicki@gmail.com

The Hand Bell Choir would like to thank Mr. Tom Coxey for taking the time to use his woodworking skills in duplicating another Music Stand for our bell ringers. Thank you Mr. Coxey!!!!

Calendar of Events

TODAY:.....February 5, 2023

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

Worship Service..... 9:30 am

Scrip Day

7th Grade PUBLIC School Confirmation After Church

Adult Basketball..... 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Bell Choir Rehearsal

.....No Adult Choir Rehearsal.....

MON:

LWML Meeting/Cheer Boxes 7:00 pm

TUES:

7/8 Grade Basketball@RLA South Bend 4:30 pm

WED:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:30 am

Day School Chapel 8:05 am

PTL Meeting 3:30 pm

THURS:

Ladies Bible Study..... 9:30 am

Preschool Chapel 9:30 am

FRI:

Parish Fellowship Meeting..... 11:00 am

PTL Game Night..... 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY:February 12, 2023

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

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

7th Grade PUBLIC School Confirmation After Church

Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm

.....No Adult Choir Rehearsal.....

LWML, Monday, February 6, 7:00 pm. Program: Bible Study "In the Father's Arms," led by Pastor Wonnacott. AND Pack "Goodie Boxes" for college students. **YOUR STUDENT'S CURRENT ADDRESS NEEDS TO BE TURNED INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE** or your student may not get a box! Anyone wishing to donate may bring 1 dozen individually-wrapped items to the Church Kitchen on Sunday, Feb. 5. Better yet, come feed on the Word and bring your items along. Refreshments will be served.

People of St Paul's: Thank you for the recent door offering for Meals on Wheels. You donated \$359 for our Bremen program. This serves to keep the price of a daily meal affordable for any senior in our

community. Your generosity makes a difference. If you have questions about our local Meals on Wheels program, you may contact Joanna Fox.

The Harman family would like to thank you for your prayers and kind cards we received from the passing of Tim's mother, Theresa. We are rejoicing for the long, blessed life she had, and that she is now at home with her Savior.

Tim and Jennifer Harman

Check it out! There's a cart of books from our church & school library in the narthex today just waiting to be borrowed. This week we've focused on devotional titles. There's something for everyone. Luther for the Busy Man, classic readings in an updated translation; Bread for the Journey, meditations and recipes to nourish the soul; and titles from familiar authors like Max Lucado and Charles Swindoll. There are devotionals for families with children, teens and even large print editions. If you're familiar with writer Barbara Johnson, you might be interested in a laugh with Mama, Get the Hammer! There's a Fly on Papa's Head! The Board of Christian Ed will be bringing the cart to the narthex each Sunday this month to showcase the variety of titles available. We'll be standing by to help you 'check it out.'

Voters' Assembly Minutes – Copies of the minutes from the Monday, January 23 regular Voters' Assembly meeting are available on the table in the narthex. 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.

From your Stewardship Board...It's Tax Time again so don't forget about a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a distribution from your individual retirement account (IRA) to a qualified charity. You must be age 70½ or older to make a qualified charitable distribution. A qualified charitable distribution is not taxed, nor is it included in your taxable income.

If certain conditions are met, QCDs also can count toward the required minimum distributions (RMDs) that people who are age 73 or older must meet each year if they have traditional IRAs (or a number of other tax advantaged retirement plans that you can't use for a QCD). Also important: You don't have to itemize on your tax return to take advantage of a QCD.

Youth News

SUPER BOWL SUBS: Today is the final opportunity to place your order for subs, which will be available after the church service on *Super Bowl Sunday (February 12th)*. Order forms are available in the Narthex of the Church. Free will donations will be accepted in support of future Youth Gatherings and mission trips and can be given to the Youth at the time of pick up.

SCHOOL CORNER

February is Reading Challenge Month! Students will be reading and accumulating points for personal and school goals, with a chance to earn prizes every week. We enjoyed having a guest author from South Bend, Kathy Smart, visit and read her two children's books. She also had a Q & A session with the middle school students about being an author. Please encourage your students to read, read, read!

Thank you for your generosity in giving back to our teachers and taking ornaments from the Teacher Giving Trees! They have been very excited to receive their "gifts"! If you would still like to give, we have a few ornaments left on the tree. If you wish to show appreciation to our teachers in this way, please take an ornament, write your name by the description of the item taken on the clipboard, purchase the requested item, and place it under the tree with the tag attached. (It does not need to be wrapped!) Thank you!

Donations to the SGO are year-round!

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 27 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.

Below are the coupons for the Hacienda fundraiser. One coupon is for the meal and the other is if someone wants a gift card. You can use either a paper copy of the coupons or a picture of them. If someone cannot make the fundraiser night and would like a gift card they can contact Eric Thornton and I will gather their information and money and get the gift card for them.



Group: St. Paul Lutheran
 Date: 2-21-23
 Location: Plymouth

You can purchase a Hacienda gift card through your Organization Representative. You can also buy gift cards online or at the above location on this day. Be sure to show this token or type in your organization in the message box.

Representative Phone Number: 574 941 2022

GIFT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR YOUR PURCHASE WITH THIS TOKEN



Group: St. Paul's Lutheran School
 Date: 2-21-23
 Location: Plymouth

You must receive this token from your organization prior to your event. Distribution of this token on Hacienda property will disqualify the organization from receiving any proceeds.

Don't have time to eat out? Pick up a Hacienda gift card or Fiesta-To-Go order. They count towards the fundraiser.

Restaurant Phone Number (574) 941-2022

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