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Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sunday Schedule:

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

Pastor Neil Wonnacott

Office Hours: M, W, TH & F
8:30 – 11:30 am

From Pastor Wonnacott's

keyboard:

I heard this Christian song that touched my heart and I wanted to share it with you.

The song is "This Is Our God" by Phil Wickham.

Remember those walls that we called sin and shame?

They were like prisons that we couldn't escape
But He came, and He died, and He rose
Those walls are rubble now

Remember those giants we called death and grave?
They were like mountains that stood in our way
But He came, and He died, and He rose
Those giants are dead now

*This is our God
This is who He is, He loves us
This is our God
This is what He does, He saves us*

*He bore the cross, beat the grave
Let Heaven and Earth proclaim
This is our God, King Jesus*

Remember that fear that took our breath away?
Faith so weak that we could barely pray
But He heard every word, every whisper

Now those altars in the wilderness

Tell the story of His faithfulness
Never once did He fail, and He never will

This is our God

This is who He is, He loves us

This is our God

This is what He does, He saves us

He bore the cross, beat the grave

Let Heaven and Earth proclaim

This is our God, King Jesus

Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did

Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus

Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did

Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus

Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh

Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Jesus

Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh

Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Him

This is our God

This is who He is, He loves us

This is our God

This is what He does, He saves us

He bore the cross, beat the grave

Let Heaven and Earth proclaim

This is our God, King Jesus

He bore the cross, beat the grave

Let Heaven and Earth proclaim

This is our God, King Jesus

Oh, this is our God

May we continue to live in the glow of Easter: Jesus is risen, He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!
May the song help to remind you how our lives have changed eternally because "This is our
God, King Jesus!"

Songwriters: Patrick Barrett / Steven Furtick / Phil Wickham / Brandon Lake

This Is Our God lyrics © All Essential Music, Be Essential Songs

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY EPISTLE IS JUNE 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!

YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES

Recent Events

- **MOVIE (March 30th):** Several of our Youth and a handful of adults took in the movie, "Jesus Revolution," at the Bremen Theatre with many others from the Bremen community. What a wonderful opportunity to witness how God impacted the lives of believers during a period of time in our country (late 1960s-early 1970s) when turmoil, uncertainty, and societal issues abounded. Sound familiar in 2023? Just as in the movie, God can do anything through "ordinary" people now and we pray that His will be done in our lives.
- **EASTER BREAKFAST (April 9th):** We had 14 of our Youth and several adults pitch in and help set up and prepare the Easter breakfast this year. As usual and despite the messes, the Youth pulled this off and everyone was able to enjoy a wonderful breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fruit, and drinks on a blessed Easter morning. To God be the glory – He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!



Upcoming Events

- **PARENT / YOUTH MEETING (Sunday, May 7th):** The Youth Board will be holding a Parent / Youth meeting after the church service on Sunday, May 7th. This is for families with Youth entering Grades 6 through High School (12th Grade) in the coming school year as we will discuss upcoming events and some long-range planning. We encourage families--parents and Youth included--to attend as we look forward to providing opportunities for our Youth to "Engage and Serve."

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

The Hospitality Committee is a committee that comes out of our Parish Fellowship Board. The purpose of this committee is to care for the physical needs of the members of St. Paul's and the community of Bremen. This group makes meals for our seniors of the church and community, and the members try to do this once a month. In order to have more people involved we are looking for people to deliver the meals. If you are willing to help, please

contact Sandy Schooler or Beth Enders. Also, if you know of someone in need of a meal, please contact Pastor Wonnacott. If you received one of these meals, please keep the containers so that we can fill them again.

The Hospitality Committee also needs your help and donation of food items for their next meal on **Wednesday, May 10th at 9am in the church kitchen**. The menu is not set at this time, so please watch for details in the bulletin. We could also use your help in the kitchen to prepare and pack the meals- it doesn't take long!

Upcoming Dates

National Day of Prayer Service is Thursday, May 4th at 9:00 am. Let us come together to pray for our leaders and our nation. A reception will follow the service.

Ascension Eve Service is on May 17th at 7:00 pm.

8th Grade Confirmation Service is on **May 21st at 9:30 am**. The Bible study hour at 8:30 am will be led by our missionary, Pastor Micah Wildauer, in the Bethany room. Following the worship service there will be a reception for our newly confirmed 8th graders in the Bethany Room.

8th Grade and Kindergarten Day School Graduation takes place on May 24th at 7:00 pm and a reception will follow the service.

A Thank You from Hank Kiefer: I wish to thank you for your prayers, encouraging words, and cards during my recent illness. Your kindnesses remind me of hymn 919 verse 6, in St. Paul's hymnal, of our eternal promise; "Abide O faithful Savior, among us with Your love; Grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above."

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.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry –Newsletter Article – May 2023

Living Sacrifices

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others." (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good

and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”
(Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

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.

PTL FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Please watch for a sign-up to help with the ticket booths at the Bremen Firemen’s Festival. The festival runs Tuesday June 13th – Saturday June 17th

We appreciate everyone’s support of the PTL. Thank you!

Postings from Preschool

Our last month of school is already here, and it's going to be a busy one! We plan to watch the dress rehearsal of the Day School musical, take field trips to the post office and library, and prepare songs for our closing program on May 23rd. We'll also be learning about the people who carried on Jesus' ministry after He returned to heaven, and how we can do the same. More books will be read, games will be played, and lessons will be reviewed. We pray that the PreK class will be ready for Kindergarten in August, and that our Beginners will return to us to learn even more! Please pray for our staff, students, and families over the summer and that more students would register for the fall. Thank you!

1st Thursday Bible Study will resume on May 4th instead of March 2nd as previously planned. This way we can start again without taking a break. We look forward to seeing everyone in May as we begin a study on The Life of Jesus - The Parables. May the Lord bless you as we look forward to the joy of Easter!

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.

Mission of the Month

In 2023 our Sunday School continues to send \$75.00 each month to a mission.

May Mission of the Month: Camp Lutherhaven

Camp Lutherhaven is a year-round outdoor ministry center that since 1949 has been dedicated to creating adventurous, faith-building experiences for children, youth, adults, and families.

Camp Lutherhaven's 2023 summer theme is: "**Game Changer.**" The theme verse comes from Romans 8:37, "In all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (ESV).

Campers will focus on God as the great game changer for the world and for their individual lives.

To read more about this summer's theme and to register for camp, go to www.lutherhaven.org.

Sunday School

Sunday School – Spring Quarter Offerings



Pre-K – Grade 2 (Nazareth Room)

Children will learn of the LOVE, HOPE, and PROMISE of SALVATION we have in Jesus! Lessons include Nicodemus, the Good Samaritan, Raising of Lazarus, Palm Sunday through Jesus' Ascension, Christians Care for Others, Paul Teaches in Athens. This class will be taught by Wendy Coxe. 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Grades 3-5 (Mrs. Roger's Classroom)

Students will learn more about Christ's ministry and His last days on Earth. **Christ Light** lessons include Nicodemus, various parables and miracles of Jesus, Jesus' Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension into Heaven. This class will be taught by Jeanette Rettinger. 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Middle School Grades 6-8 (Mr. Miller's Classroom)

Deepen your understanding of Jesus and learn how to walk in His footsteps as you study the book of Luke. This class will be taught by Kelly Sienicki. 8:30-9:15 a.m.

High School (Principal's Office)

Bill Rogers will continue a study of the book of Romans and discuss its application for daily living. 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Class

All members of St. Paul's are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the "Connect to Disciple" Bible study. This is the first congregational Bible study for the revitalization program. The study will be held on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am (for 45 minutes) in the Fellowship Hall. **If you can't make it on Sunday, the same study will be held the following Wednesday night at 6:30 pm for about 45 minutes.** The study has six units and is devoted to studying the Word and has time for interaction. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to grow together in God's Word.

Hope to see you in Sunday School for these exciting topics!

Other Opportunities for Bible Study:

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets every other Wednesday morning

(beginning on March 8), 6:30-7:30 a.m. at the Bremen Hospital. Lively discussion!

Thursday Morning Ladies' Bible Study meets in the Jerusalem Room at 9:30 a.m.

Be Thou My Guide is a Bible study that encourages us to draw closer to the Lord with trusting hearts and minds and not to rely on ourselves. This study is led by Barb Middaugh.

Saturday Women's Group meets in the Jerusalem Room at 11:00 a.m. to read and discuss God's Word together – an "informal" gathering! This group is led by Kelly Sienicki.

Please join us for faith-building studies and Christian fellowship! Bring your friends and family! Let us know if you are in need of Child Care. (Contact Wendy Coxe.)



"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb "

"I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am; For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well provides me, Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

"Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb? And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended, He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest."

The prophet Isaiah spoke of a day to come when God Himself would visit His people. He would tend His flock like a shepherd. He would gather the lambs in His arms and

carry them close to His heart (see Isaiah 40:11). The hymn, "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb," celebrates Jesus, our Shepherd and Savior, who came among us as the prophet foretold. The hymn speaks of the Shepherd's love for us and our joy in His care. It is a hymn for little children and for all of God's children of every age in life. In Baptism our Shepherd calls us by name and makes us His own. The early lessons of faith we learn - that Jesus loves us, that He knows our needs and gently guides us - are confirmed in our lives as the years pass.

The Good Shepherd, who gave His life to save us, loves us "every day the same." In a world of uncertainty and fear, this is certain: Jesus loves you every day the same. Jesus your Shepherd is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8b). This is the same Shepherd who carried you before you were born and who promises, "Even to your old age I am He, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save" (Isaiah 46:4). You were chosen, in fact, to be His own before you were born, even before the world was created (see Ephesians 1:4).

There are times when we wander from the Shepherd, as lambs often do, perhaps trying to distance ourselves from His watchful care or imagining that greener pastures may be found elsewhere. But our Shepherd laid down His life to save His sheep. He seeks us out, His wandering, doubting, fearful lambs, and rescues us with His forgiveness and love.

Whatever your age, you are a child of God; you are Jesus' precious little lamb. The Shepherd, who has always loved you, will love you "every day the same" throughout your earthly years and for all eternity.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 2023

ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Matt & Jennifer Podlin | 25 | Kurt & Shirley Guse |
| 9 | Bruce & Deb Schmidt | 26 | Matthew & Erin Sarber |
| 13 | Efrain & Rebecca Mejia | 27 | Jim & Melonia Russell |
| 16 | Troy & Robert Yoder | | |

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Roberta Meiring | 18 | Mary Urban |
| 3 | Barbara Shell | 19 | Jaimelynn (Tinkey) Flores Ava Meija |
| 4 | Eric Knepper | 21 | Larry Enders |
| 5 | Alexis Andrews Katherine Barts | 22 | Julie Garl Bella-Mae Sahlhoff Laura Stayton |
| 7 | Victoria Orr | 24 | Mildred Bollenbacher Tori Ernsberger Parker Holt |
| 9 | Heidi Wildauer Grace Winterboer | 26 | Owen Bickle |
| 10 | Alejandra Slavey Eric Thornton Michele Wolff | 27 | Janet Kaiser Riley Schmidt |
| 11 | Jace Bailey Patsy Schlemmer | 28 | Heath Hicks Jack Stanifer |
| 13 | Wanda Felton Mark Sahlhoff Donald Schoning | 30 | Linda Coffel Matthew Sarber |
| 14 | Ellen Tjernagel | 31 | William Garl |
| 15 | Emily Diaz John Matthew Justin Quenan | | |

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

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 7:00 p.m. in the Bethany Room

Program: Servant Event – VBS “Work Night” Anyone/everyone is invited to help
prepare for St. Paul's VBS program. Refreshments will be served afterward.

40th LWML Biennial Convention at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-25, 2023

Theme: “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations”

Registration info available in “Good News,” Quarterly magazine or online lwml.org

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023 Program: Servant Event – “Cards of Hope” for Phil's Friends –

We will be creating hand-made cards for Phil's Friends Cancer Care Packages, or coloring
ready-made ones as follow up encouragement cards to recovering patients.

Open to anyone wishing to help. Refreshments will be served afterward.

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

St. Paul's 177th LITURGICAL YEAR + May 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023

Worship Opportunities to Bless Our Lives * Celebration of Holy Communion

SUNDAY 9:30 a.m.

MIDWEEK at time stated

Thursday, MAY 4 National Day Of Prayer 9:00 a.m.

May 7 5th Sunday of Easter

May 14* 6th Sunday of Easter

Wednesday, May 17 Eve of The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord 7:00 p.m.

May 21 7th Sunday of Easter – Jr. Confirmation Day

May 28* The Feast of the Holy Spirit - Pentecost

May Major Festivals: **18 The Ascension of Our Lord**: (Thursday) Next to Easter, the most important
theological observance of the Church Year. Always celebrated as part of Easter; specific observance since
600 AD. Historically took place on the Mount of Olives, 40 days after Christ's resurrection. “*He also
presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days
and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*” Acts 1:3 • He promises **The Gift of The Holy
Spirit**: “*He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom
the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with
you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*” John 14:16-18 • **He is Exalted**: “...
*when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all
principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also
in that which is to come.*” Eph. 1:20-22 • **His Eternal Reign**: “*And He put all things under His feet, and gave
Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*” Eph.
1:23 • **His Second Coming**: “*This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as
you saw Him go into heaven.*” Acts 1:11 ♦ **28 Pentecost: Feast of the Holy Spirit**: color red, for the blood
of Christ & of martyrs, fire of the Holy Spirit, zeal, & missionary spirit. Celebrated as part of Easter since the

3rd century; it concludes Easter Season & The Time of Easter. • The first *Christian Day* of Pentecost occurred at the Jewish Feast of Weeks, when all Jewish males by the Law were required to appear at the Temple. Acts 2 • The focus Holy Spirit pouring out His gifts upon the Church, to fulfill The Great Commission. *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* Acts 1:8 ✦ May Minor Festivals: **1 St. Philip & St. James, Apostles**: *color red*. apostle Philip, when called, went & found Nathanael, bringing him to Jesus. Jesus tested him in the miracle of the loaves. Symbol: Cross / Loaves - his martyrdom, as tradition says he was crucified in Asia Minor & his words to Jesus. John 1:43-48; 6:5-7; 12:21-22; 14:8-9 • James the Less / Younger. Symbol: saw, believed martyred by being sawn asunder. Appears only in Gospel lists of The Twelve. ✦ **31 The Visitation**: Originated 13th century; Mary’s visit to Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist) after the angel Gabriel’s announcement she would be the mother of Messiah; during which she speaks the Magnificat, *“My soul doth magnify the Lord...”* Luke 1:39-56 ✦ Occasional Festival: **21 Rite of Jr. Confirmation**: celebrates a specific event in a member’s life. *Rite: a set order (liturgy) followed in a ceremonial or religious service; including words & actions*. • LC-MS normally observes this Rite towards the end of a child’s 8th-grade school year. Luther’s Small Catechism, 1529, is the basis for required doctrinal instruction in the Christian faith, before Confirmation & receiving The Lord’s Supper. • Connected to The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: as the congregation once confessed the Christian faith *into* which an infant is baptized, *now the confirmand confesses personal faith* in Christ; in the Bible as the inerrant Word of God; and the truth of the church’s teachings, as drawn from Scripture. An adult may take instruction and be baptized / confirmed at any age. ✦ Commemorations: **2 Athanasius of Alexandria, Pastor & Confessor**: Orthodox theologian of the early Church; opposed heresy [*false teaching*] all of his adult life. At the Council of Nicea, 325, the deity of Christ was challenged by Arius, an aged deacon, who said belief in Jesus and the Father as equally God was *too close* to belief in many gods; thus, he held Jesus was not fully God; *nor eternal*, the highest of *created* beings; *not of the same essence as the Father*. Alarmed bishops called on Constantine to “protect the Church from Arius.” Athanasius, a mere 25 years old, gave the orthodox view: If Christ were less than God, He could not be our Savior; only God can reconcile man to Himself; only a Divine Savior could offer a sufficient sacrifice. His zeal led the Council to formulate the Church’s 1st *written confession*, The Nicene Creed; reaffirmed 381, when the 3rd article was added. • Early 5th century, a Trinitarian Creed was written & given Athanasius’ name, doubtless to honor a lifetime defense of the Trinity & the deity of Christ and the Holy Spirit. It begins: *“Whosoever will be saved ...”* LSB pg. 319 • ‘Gospels’ & ‘epistles’ contrary to Apostolic teaching appeared by 100 AD. Marcion, c. 150, accepted only Luke & 10 epistles. More lists appeared & Church leaders determined a Canon [*approved list*] of Scripture was needed. Athanasius’ *Easter Festal letter*, 367, listed 27 writings then in use by the Church as the *only* inspired works, & the *only* ones upholding doctrinal truth. No doubt *his rule* was the treatment of Christ’s incarnation & deity, and recognized Apostolic authorship. Thirty years later, The Council of Carthage, 397, adopted that list; we call it The New Testament. ✦ **4 Friedrich Wyneken, Pastor & Missionary**: “Lutheran Apostle to the West” 1st pastor/ missionary associated with Missouri Synod; her 2nd president, 1850-1864. Reading of German Lutherans spiritual needs in America, he felt *“compelled by conscience;”* yet did not wish to go. *“But if I stayed, I wouldn’t be able to look up to you [the Lord] and pray to you. So, then, I surely must go of my free will.”* Left Bremen, Germany, July 1838. The Pennsylvania German Ev. Lutheran Synod sent him to cover parts of Indiana, Illinois, & Missouri to *“search for scattered German Protestants”* &

“*whenever possible, form congregations.*” • Ill health caused his return to Germany, to seek help; his pleas were answered by Pastor Loehe in sending students & books. Back in America, began an Indian mission (Frankenmuth). When St. Louis could not meet the demand for pastors, he helped establish Ft. Wayne Seminary. pg. 18, *150th Anniversary Book* ✦ **5 Frederick the Wise, Christian Ruler:** Defender of Luther & the Reformation. Luther was condemned by the Edict of Wörms, 1521, so he kept Martin safe from the Pope’s wrath by ‘kidnapping’ and hiding him in Wartburg Castle, where Luther used his time to translate the Bible into German. ✦ **7 C. F. W. Walther, Theologian:** Emigrated to America near St. Louis, with about 600 “Saxon Lutherans,” 1839; 1st president, 1847, of German Ev. Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States (now Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod). ‘*Father of American Lutheran Confessionalism*,’ his led in establishing a governance based on: a right distinction between Law & Gospel; a sound understanding of justification by faith; & an unqualified belief in Scripture as the inspired, inerrant Word of God. ✦ **9 Job** Satan claimed God’s protection caused Job’s faithfulness. In declaring his suffering was not because he was guilty of some sin, he overstated his innocence, & God Himself sets him straight. 38-42 • Job testifies to a bodily resurrection: “*For I know that my redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.*” 19:25,26 ✦ **11 Cyril & Methodius** Missionaries to the Slavs: Brothers; Greek nobility; priests. Evangelized Jewish Khazars in Russia in 861, Moravia, 1863; developed a Slavonic alphabet and translated the Bible into *Cyrillic*. Methodius also evangelized in Bohemia, Pannonia (Roman Hungary), former Yugoslavia, & into Poland. ✦ **21 Emperor Constantine, Christian Ruler & Helena, mother of Constantine:** Took a special interest in Jerusalem, destroyed by Romans, 70 AD. As Jesus prophesied, the Temple was desecrated & demolished, with only a portion of the Western (Wailing) Wall surviving. Matt 24:10 • It was Helena, on pilgrimage (*journey for a religious purpose*) to the Holy Land, 326-327, directed the building of churches on *traditional* sites identified with Jesus’ life. ✦ **24 Esther** (her Persian name, means *star*): Orphaned Jewish girl named Hadassah; carried away to Babylon; raised by cousin Mordecai; used in God’s plan to save Jews of Persia from annihilation. The Book of Esther comes after Ezra & Nehemiah; *chronologically* her ‘story’ is before / around Ezra’s time. • Sent to the palace for the “I Need A New Queen Contest,” after the previous queen, Vashti, ticked off the king. On her cousin’s advice, she hid her nationality. Mordecai, on the other hand was openly Jewish & made an enemy at court when he refused to bow to Haman. Irate, Haman put out a “hit” on him, by hatching a plot to kill every Jew in Persia! • Mordecai gave Esther the bad news; told her it was time to act; after praying 3 days, took her life in her hands & went to see the king. Dangerous move, since without a royal invitation she might hear, ‘Off with her head!’ Long story short, Esther made a plan; exposed wicked Haman; revealed she was Jewish; & God’s people were saved from a nasty end. “God” is not named, but He was at work: this is Judah’s tribe, line of Christ! Gen. 49:10, Rev. 5:5 ✦ **25 Bede the Venerable:** The “most learned man of his day,” his writings used dates reckoned from Christ’s Incarnation (BC/AD). He died a few days before The Ascension Feast, 735.

“...since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

St. Paul's Mission Activities and Opportunities

Hope Ministries – Donating food, making meals, serving the meals to the homeless

“Meals on Wheels” – to the elderly in Bremen

Hospitality Committee – making meals monthly for congregation members and those in the community in need of caring and/or assistance

Collection of donations to Bremen Food Pantry

Collection of clothing and shoes for Hope Ministries

Thanksgiving Day Dinner for anyone to eat at church / carry out or deliveries also offered

Financial and Spiritual support for Pastor Micah Wildauer and family

Financial and Spiritual support for Missionary Jamielynn and Pastor Rafael Flores

Octoberfest Booth – cookie booth (free-will offering) with proceeds benefiting Riley Children's

Hospital / also give out Bibles, Bible story books, information about the church

Caring Ministry- members visit our shut-ins and shut-ins in the community

Welcome Bags for Evangelism- collect items, assemble bags, and deliver bags to new residents of Bremen

If you would like to get involved or have any questions, please call Pastor Wonnacott at 574-301-9291

