Saint Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and School – Bremen, IN

The Epistle August 2023

From Pastor Wonnacott’s keyboard:

**Address**:

605 S. Center St.

Bremen, IN 46506

**Telephone**:

1-574-546-2332

**E-Mail**:

church@stpaulsbremen.org

schools@stpaulsbremen.org

**Website**:

stpaulsbremen.church

facebook.com/stpaulsbremen

vimeo.com/stpaulsbremen

**Church Office Hours**:

Monday – Friday

 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Sunday Schedule**:

Sunday School: 8:30 am

Worship: 9:30 am

**Pastor** Neil Wonnacott

Office Hours: M, W, TH & F

8:00 – 11:30 am

574-301-9291

As you all know my family and I went on a few vacations this summer and we have one more in August.

Our first vacation was up the west coast of Michigan as far as Manistee. We were blessed to see and feel God’s creation and be amazed at His goodness. We also saw the landing craft LST 393 (Large Slow Target is its nickname, we were told) from World War II that was involved in the D-Day invasion. We also toured the U.S.S. Silverside submarine. These trips reminded me to be thankful to God for the freedoms we have and the cost that was paid by our veterans.

 Next was our summer pilgrimage to Detroit to see Christie’s folks and family. We always have a great time there. We also had the opportunity to help out with stuff at Dad and Mom’s house, and gain wisdom from their many years (91) of living the life of a Christian, and what a “Christ-centered marriage” (71 years) looks like.

 In July we traveled to Wisconsin to see Luke and Tessa and the life that God has given them to share Christ’s love with the campers where they serve. We enjoyed this time with our son and his wife, their animals, and no tv!!! It was a good reminder for us to unplug from the world every now and then.

 Why do I share this with you? Because we all need rest and relaxation and family. But we also need time with God in order to be refreshed and renewed. Please take the time to read your Bible, pray, and be with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Listen to what the Lord is saying to you!

 Your Brother in Christ,

 Pastor Wonnacott

***THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER EPISTLE IS AUGUST 2OTH!!!*** 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!

**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.

**YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES**

**Recent Events**

* **SUMMER YOUTH NIGHTS (June-July):** For 4 Wednesdays during the summer we met for various activities, including “Change the Rules “ Whiffle Ball, Sand Volleyball at Sunnyside Park, Scatterball/Dodgeball in the Gym, and Water Kickball (were the Youth more focused on getting wet than playing Kickball …. Maybe). At the end of these activities we enjoyed snacks and a brief devotion, with the last focusing on Baptism and God coming to us through this Sacrament.
* **WARREN DUNES (July 16th):** Our High School Youth (with a couple of friends) enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at the Warren Dunes in Michigan. Each of the Youth made it up the highest dune, some trekked to the clay pits, and all enjoyed cooling off in Lake Michigan. We ended the afternoon with some tasty ice cream (and chicken wings for a few of the boys?) before heading home. God’s creation is amazing and this was a great opportunity for our Youth to experience it.

 **Upcoming Events**

* **PAIGE’S CROSSING (Sunday, August 6th):** Youth in Grades 6 through High School are invited for this fun outing in Columbia City. We will plan to leave shortly after the church service. The Youth Board will provide lunch prior to departure and we will look to spend the afternoon

 there before returning to Bremen. Cost is $10/attendee with the Youth Board offsetting the additional fees. Sign up is required on the Youth

 bulletin board for planning purposes and parents will be required to sign a waiver.

* **FALL YOUTH NIGHTS (Coming in September):** As in years past we are planning to host Youth Nights on Wednesday evenings throughout the month of September from 7-8 pm. These will be opportunities for our Youth in Grades 4-High School to take a break from school work and extra- curricular activities to join in various activities with one another. Look for more information to come in the weeks ahead.

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

 **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.

 **A note from the Evangelism Board**

      The Evangelism Board will be delivering Welcome bags in Bremen on Monday, August 21st. Anyone interested in helping please meet at church at 5:00 pm to assemble bags and

receive addresses. This is a fun way to meet new neighbors and get a little exercise! Many hands make light work!  There are Welcome bags in the Narthex on the coat rack for anyone to give away to someone new; new neighbor, visitor to church, etc. We will pack more as those are given away!

        Thank you to all our crafters for the wonderful dishcloths we have been putting in the Welcome bags!  Thank you also for all your donations and prayers! We look forward to seeing you August 21. Questions? Contact Deb Burcham or Angie Hughes.

**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.

**August Mission of the Month: Lutherans for Life**

**LFL’s Mission:** ***Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life***

The message of Lutherans For Life is the heart-changing truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our primary message is not so much: “Here’s what we should do.” Rather it is: “Here is what God has done that gives value and dignity to all human life.”

For more information on Lutherans for Life, go to [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

**Save the dates:**

1. Mother / Daughter Fun Night – September 14th at 7pm
2. Hope Ministries Meal – September 15th at 4:30pm
3. Oktoberfest – September 29th and 30th

More details to come! Watch for updates in the upcoming Epistle and bulletins.

**Preschool Postings**

The first day of preschool is right around the corner! Soon we'll welcome all the smiling students, eager to hear about the love of Jesus. This year we will strive to connect with these families and keep them connected with Jesus, our Savior.

We still have openings if you know of anyone in need of quality Christian education for 3 and 4 year olds.

May God bless our students and families, our staff, and this school year!

Join Us for Summer Sunday School!

Be refreshed in God’s Word!8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

**Children ages PRE-K through Completion of Grade 5 . . . . . . . .** Meet in the **gym** for **devotions** and a variety of **activities –** crafts, games, open gym, service project, nature walks, refreshments, etc. **--** led by a rotation of teachers.

**Teens (students who have completed Grades 6&7)** **. . . . . . . .** Meet with your friends to read together and discuss the **Book of Luke**. It promises to inspire your faith and love for our Savior, Jesus! Joanna Fox will lead this study in Mr. Miller’s classroom.

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

\*\* Watch for more information!

**“Trash Talk”**

***Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:29-30***

**Some years ago, a famous New York Fifth Avenue jewelry store had a promotional presentation.

With great pomp and considerable advertising, they unveiled the display of a flawless 70-carat diamond. For this trivial bauble, the company had paid a record $1,050,000. For days the curious waited in line so they could get a short glimpse of the diamond.

\* A short, bald man peered condescendingly at the gigantic jewel protected in the theft-proof glass case. He leaned over and whispered to his wife, "I can see a flaw in that diamond, but let's keep it a secret between us. I wouldn't want to say anything to the company."

\* A chic and stylish lady concluded, "You know, it really isn't *that* beautiful."

\* "It's too large," said one woman in rhinestone-studded glasses.

\* "I think it's vulgar," commented a third.

At the end of two weeks, the guard who was protecting the jewel said, "These last**

**two weeks I've heard a lot of trash talk. I'm amazed these folks spent their time waiting to see something so pitiful."

Trash talk happens when a person sees something good and then finds flaws to put it down.

Well, trash talk is what the Pharisees did to Jesus the day He rode into Jerusalem. The Pharisees trash talked Jesus when He associated with sinners (Matthew 9:11). They trash talked Jesus for not obeying man-made laws (Matthew 9:14). They trash talked Jesus and His disciples for the way they remembered the Sabbath (Matthew 12:2). They trash talked the Lord and His followers for the way they kept traditions and washed their hands (Matthew 15:2). They trash talked Jesus for the stories He told (Matthew 21:45-46). They even trash talked their own employees when they were touched by the words of the Savior.

It's not so much different today.

Today we have people who put down Christ and His people for a multitude of reasons. They think we're phony and foolish. They thing we're narrow-minded and near-sighted. They think we are backward, prejudiced and judgmental.

How sad.

It's sad they feel that way about us and the Savior whom we represent. It's even sadder if their feelings have some basis in truth.

Perhaps that's why St. Paul told the Ephesian church they were to let no corrupting talk come out of their mouths. Instead, Christians should be identified by using their conversations to build people up and support them.

That is, after all, what the Holy Spirit wants. It is what glorifies the Christ who gave His life so that we might have life.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, forgive my loose tongue and grant that I may say those things which are beneficial to others. In Jesus' Name. Amen.**

***Birthdays & Anniversaries*** ***August 2023***

***ANNIVERSARIES***

2 Mark & Heidi Wildauer 17 Ron & Carol Kramer

**3** James & Janet Kaiser 19 Larry & Grace Winterboer

6 David & Debra Burcham 20 Al & Martha (Heuberger) Schroeder

8 Pastor & Christie Wonnacott 21 Kevin & Susan Furman

14 Dan & Annette Knepper 22 Brian & Kathleen Denk

 24 Bill & Julie Garl

**BIRTHDAYS**

3 Remington Shumaker

4 Ken Eichinger

 Braxton Leed

 Wiley Napper

5 Keegan Guse

6 Reuben Napper

7 Brynlee Bailey

9 Sandie Schooler

 Jayden Wilson

10 Gloria Kiefer

 Sara Knepper

Joann Wonnacott

11 Bayly Dobbins

 Matt Fox

 Susan Furman



13 Cathy Dietl

 Jim Kaiser

14 Kristen Guse

15 James Hughes

17 Amy Clark

18 Martha Miller

 Marilyn Reed

21 Josephine Wildauer

 Evan Wilson

22 Tyler Schmeltz

23 Julie Fox

24 Jim Tinkey

 Christin Lizzi

26 Troy Yoder

29 April Miller

 Garrett Stanifer

30 Lewis Haug

 Henry Sarber

31 Kara Green

 John Kiefer

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, 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, and coloring ready-made ones as follow up encouragement cards to recovering patients. Supplies will be available, along with suggested Bible passages.

Anyone wishing to help is welcome. Refreshments will be served afterward.

Indiana District LWML Treatshop**, Saturday, August 19, at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Tipton.** Begins at 9:30 am – ends 3:30 pm. **Cost:** $15, which covers continental breakfast, light lunch, and materials.

There are 3 different 55 minutes sessions to sign up for: info on each session is on the Registration Form online (if you prefer a paper copy, notify Elaine 248-2741). Any woman of the congregation is invited to attend.

M.O.S.T. Ministries Eyeglasses. Glasses may be any type, but in good condition (cases are *not* used due to shipping weight.

M.O.S.T. has also begun to showing people how to make a simple saline solution eyewash, and are requesting glass Eyedroppers to hand out. These can also be placed in the eyeglasses box located beneath the “bulletin table” in the narthex.

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

**St. Paul's 177th LITURGICAL YEAR** ✝**August 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023** *Worship Opportunities to Bless Our Lives* \* Celebration of Holy Communion **SUNDAY 9:30 a.m.**

**Aug 6** 10th Sunday after Pentecost

**Aug 13\*** 11th Sunday after Pentecost

**Aug 20** 12th Sunday after Pentecost

**Aug 27\*** 13th Sunday after Pentecost

*August Minor Festivals* **24** St. Bartholomew, Apostle a.k.a. Nathanael ● **29** Martyrdom of John the Baptist ● *Commemorations* **3** Joanna, Mary, & Salome, Myrrhbearers ● **10** St. Laurence, Martyr ● **15** Mary, Mother of Our Lord ● **16** Isaac ● **17** Johann Gerhard, Theologian 1582-1637 ● **18** Bernard of Clairvaux, Hymnwriter & Theologian 1090-1153 ● **20** Samuel, Last judge of Israel, Prophet ● **27** Monica, Mother of Augustine ● **28** Augustine Of Hippo, Pastor & Theologian 354-430 ●

***“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.***

***The night is far spent, the day is at hand.”*** Romans 13:11-12a NKJV