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

The Epistle JULY 2023

 From Pastor Wonnacott’s keyboard:

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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**:

Rev. Neil Wonnacott

Office Hours:

M, W, TH & F

8:30 – 11:30 am

574-301-9291

Have you ever asked, “Why, Lord? Why did you save me?” We read in Luther’s Small Catechism question #150: ***In conclusion, then, why has Christ redeemed you?***

The Scriptures teach that Christ’s purpose was “that I may be His own”; that is, I am now righteous and blameless in the sight of God; from the Word of God:

532 2 Cor. 5:21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

533 Rev. 5:9 You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. Also, that I may “live under Him in His kingdom”; that is, that I am now freed from the slavery of sin and thus freed to serve God; from the Word of God:

534 Rom. 6:6 Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin (NKJV).

535 2 Cor. 5:15 He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

Also, that I may “serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness”; that is, that I honor God with my whole life and rejoice in Him now on earth and forever in heaven; from the Word of God:

539 Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

540 1 Peter 2:9 You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

The answer to our question is given to us through the Word and through the Spirit, that we are loved and we are a precious possession of our God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, created to serve Him. May we as brothers and sisters in His kingdom continue to search the Scriptures which are able to make us wise unto salvation in Christ Jesus.

***THE DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST EPISTLE IS JULY 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!

**Church Office Hours**

The new hours for the church office are Monday through Friday from

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES**

**Recent Events**

* **FIREMAN’S FESTIVAL DRINK TABLE (June 13th-17th):** Despite a rain out the first night of the Festival, we had a successful week at our table as we remained busy right through Saturday evening. Funds collected will help offset costs of future Youth activities. We are grateful to the congregation for your generous donations of soda/water and financially in leading up to the festival. Thank you also to those Youth and Adults who volunteered throughout the week to make this a successful endeavor.

 **Upcoming Events**

* **SUMMER YOUTH NIGHTS (July 12th and July 19th):** Youth Nights kicked off on June 21st and will continue in the weeks ahead on July 12th and July 19th from 7-8 pm. These are opportunities for activity and fellowship for our Youth in Grades 4 through High School to connect throughout the summer.
* **WARREN DUNES (July 16th):** Following the church service, our Youth Board will be ta king HS aged Youth to the Warren Dunes for the afternoon. Lunch will be provided prior to departure and the Youth Board will also have snacks available at the Dunes. Youth must sign up on the bulletin board and a parental waiver will be required. No cost to attend; Youth will want to bring their own money for ice cream afterward.
* **PAIGE’S CROSSING (August 6th):** Youth in Grades 6 through High School will have an opportunity just before school starts up again to join us for this fun outing in Columbia City. We will plan to leave shortly after the church service. 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.

**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.

**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.

You are invited to a Congregational Breakfast on July 9th. This event is sponsored by the Board of Parish Fellowship, who will supply the tableware and drinks. The breakfast will begin at 8:00 am and run until 9:00 am in the Bethany Room. Everyone is asked to bring a breakfast item or dish to share. The Adult Bible Class will be in the same room from 8:30 am until 9:15 am so you can be fed on the Word of God and some great food!

Pastor Wonnacott and Family will be on vacation July 1st through July 6th.

**Mission of the Month**

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

**July Mission of the Month: Bremen Holy Walk**

This year’s Bremen Holy Walk is set for December 1 and 2, 2023.

Friday, December 1, 6-9pm

Saturday, December 2, 5-9pm

Additional information from the website [www.bremenholywalk.com](http://www.bremenholywalk.com): This year there is Kids Hour from 5-6pm on Saturday, reservations required (see website).

Bremen High School doors open to the public one hour before tours begin–at 5pm on Friday and at 4pm on Saturday.

**Preschool Postings**

We're halfway through the summer and already thinking about how to better serve our incoming students this August. We look forward to teaching them about Jesus, His miracles, His death and resurrection, and His eternal promise for us. We know that with God's help we can help the children prepare for Kindergarten and for their lives ahead. We pray that their families would be drawn closer to Jesus during their time at St. Paul's. We still have openings so if you know of anyone interested in a quality preschool education please have them contact the school office!

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!





It was a wonderful week at **God’s Living Water** VBS as the children learned how Jesus showers His grace on us through water and the Word.The Lord blessed our VBS program with fun Christ-centered material and a wonderful team of volunteers. There was a total of 58 kids who attended at least one day with an average daily attendance of 49. The breakdown of church affiliation was 19 St. Paul’s, 3 from other Lutheran churches, 30 from other community churches(majority are or have been students at our preschool/day school), and 6 children unchurched.

It was such a blessing to have a total of 34 individuals, 20 adults and 14 youth, who volunteered during our week of Vacation Bible School! This year all the children met in the Bethany Room for the Opening/Closing and Bible Story. The Bible Stories each featured God’s Blessing of Water in some way. God provided water for His people from a rock when God instructed Moses to strike the rock-Our Lord is always with us. Naaman was cleansed of his leprosy by God when he followed Elisha’s instructions-God heals us and makes us like new. Jesus provided “Living Water” for the Samaritan woman at the well-Jesus gives all we need for life. Jesus washed His Disciples feet-Jesus washes away the sins of the world. The Holy Spirit was sent to believers at Pentecost and thousands were baptized-Jesus sent the Holy Spirit so we may believe in our Savior. The Bible lesson was acted out each day by leaders and the children. The children also learned a daily Bible verse.

Each day there was further instruction of the Bible Lesson with activity pages. The children enjoyed learning about water in Science Demonstrations. They made crafts each day to reinforce the theme. The had fun with games/playtime and enjoyed delicious snacks.

A big thank you to all those who attended the LWML work night to help prepare crafts. Thank you to congregation members for prayers and funds. Vacation Bible School was a wonderful opportunity to come together to help the children of our congregation and community grow in their faith while having a great time!

 ***John 20:19-20, 24-29 - On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. ... Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe." Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."***

**One of the things that annoys me the most about God is how leisurely He is. When I'm in crisis, I want Him to drop everything and deal with me now. I'm scared, I'm hurting—I want help *now*, Lord! Not a week or a month or a year from now!

And yet, I can't say that God hasn't warned me about the way He is. Take a look at the story of Thomas. On the day of Jesus' resurrection, he misses his chance to see Him. Thomas gets back from wherever he went, and the first thing everybody tells him is "Jesus is alive! We saw Him, it's really true!"

Now Thomas is in crisis. Everybody around him is excited and happy, and Thomas just can't make himself believe what they're saying. He's still in a Good Friday mood. And he loses his temper. "Not unless I stick my finger in the nail-holes," he says. He's probably afraid as well. Have all his friends lost their minds?

It would be so easy for Jesus to just pop back for a moment and reassure Thomas. But no. He leaves Thomas dangling in the wind of doubt for eight days. It must have felt like a lifetime.

Why do this? Why leave me worrying for months or years about a work or family problem? Why leave people I love in pain, in grief, in fear?

As usual, Jesus doesn't explain Himself. But He *does* eventually come back—and Thomas is rescued from his plight. Jesus comes to us as well—not on our schedule, but on God's. He will not leave us forever. And during the waiting, He will give us the Holy Spirit's help. That time of suffering is not wasted, though we may not see the value of it till much later.

So what do we do now, while we suffer? We complain, cry out, pray, beg for mercy—okay, that's normal and completely to be expected. But we also trust in the Lord who saved us—because Jesus' love and faithfulness is engraved on His very body. His hands and feet carry the marks of His love for us forever.**

**This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 2023

ANNIVERSARIES

11 Larry & Vicki Miller 22 Derek & Whitney Nick

12 Michael & Donna Gordon 25 Larry & Tammy Britt

16 Michael & Marilyn Gumz 28 Nathan & Beth Miller

20 Ken & Anita Eichinger 29 Bill & Jamie Rogers

 Terry & Penny Holderman 30 Scott & Tonya Hundt

BIRTHDAYS

1 Cleon Felton 22 Claire Schmidt

Debra Sahlhoff

 26 Jase Garrett

2 Gabby Barts Dennis Sienicki

3 Terri Davis 27 Gabriel Mejia

 Lillian Pulliam

 28 Barb Middaugh

4 Amanda Smith

 29 Kevin Furman

5 Beth Miller

 30 Karie Furman

6 LeeAnna VanSoest Diana Stuckman

7 Bill Latzke 31 Robert Bowen

 John Pulliam III Mary Ingle

 Priscilla Quenan Carol Kramer

8 Rita Stanifer

 Mark Wildauer



9 Anita Eichinger

 Mason Hochstetler

11 Dan Fox

 Yvonnie Green

12 Lori Haug

15 Carol Hardy

16 Cordall Schoning

17 Robert Koontz

 Lacey Shumaker

19 Linda Ringle

20 Cheryl Ervin

 Brad Sahlhoff

 John Sahlhoff

21 Makayla Fox

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

July Ingathering (Treatshop): **Voice of Care** (RSO). Ministry to adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Requesting art supplies: construction paper; colored pencils; stencils; markers; water colors; stickers; 24 ct Crayons

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.

Open to anyone wishing to help. 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. At least two boxes have been delivered this year. 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 how to make a simple saline solution eyewash. They are requesting glass Eyedroppers to hand out. These can also be placed in the eyeglasses box located beneath the “bulletin table” in the narthex:. A letter further explaining this, along with a thank you, is posted on the Check-It-Out-Board outside the secretary's office.

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

**St. Paul's 177th LITURGICAL YEAR** ✝**July 1, 2023 – July 31, 2023** *Worship Opportunities to Bless Our Lives* \* Celebration of Holy Communion

**SUNDAY 9:30 a.m.**

**July 2 5th Sunday after Pentecost July 9\* 6th Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 16** **7th Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 23\***

**July 30**

**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

**9th Sunday after Pentecost**

*July Minor Festivals* **25** St. James The Greater ● *Commemorations* **6** Isaiah ● **16** Ruth ● **20** Elijah ● **21** Ezekiel ● **22** St. Mary Magdalene ● **28** Johann Sebastian Bach, Kantor 1685-1750 ● **29** Mary, Martha, & Lazarus Of Bethany Friends of Jesus ●

**30** Robert Barnes, Confessor & Martyr 1495-1540 ● **31** Joseph Of Arimathea

What is the difference between “holy day” and “holiday?” Answer: Only its purpose, since ‘holiday’ is a variant spelling. On the civil calendar Independence Day is a holiday: “a day on which custom or law dictates a halting of general business activity to commemorateor celebrate a particular event.” However, if Indiana decided NOT to celebrate the 4th, by law, only federal employees would get a ‘holiday.’ ◊ Under United States common law, only Sunday is a legitimate *nation-wide* ‘holiday.’ And one day, that ‘law’ could change if enough legislators so decide. ◊ But regardless of what the civil calendar, or law, says, each Sunday on the Church Year Calendar is a holy day: “a religious feast day,” set aside for the worship of our Lord. The Church also sees all week days as 'set aside,' to commemorate or celebrate the works and words of our Savior, Jesus Christ, as "holy days." *“O taste and see that the Lord is good.”* Psalm 34:8+ ◊ So one might say that every day in the life of a Christian is a holiday, a holy day, sanctified to the Lord, set aside to thank and praise Him, to serve Him in our vocation and with our gifts, and to remember His manifold blessings. ◊ The idea of holding a feast: a celebration, usually with food and drink, to observe a special event is an ancient idea. Lot, Abraham, Isaac, Laban, and even Pharaoh are recorded as doing so. Our God, in Exodus 5:1, tells Pharaoh to let His people go so they can ‘hold a feast’ to Him. ◊ But whereas people use 'feast' to refer mainly to banqueting, the Lord’s use of ‘feast’ has the connotation of sacred procession, solemnity, continual ceremony throughout generations, and sacrifice. ◊ God Himself, at Sinai, instituted a system of Feast Days for the people of Israel. From the very beginning of the apostolic church (the time when the apostles were still living), Sunday was set aside as ‘the Lord’s Day,’ the day on which Jesus rose from the dead. Once the church was able to openly worship, and build actual places strictly for worship, daily prayers and services were held, with Sunday still reserved as the major time of assembly. ◊ And though we now generally think of Holy Communion when we speak of the Feast of the Lord, each and every time the Christian community gathers, God invites us to “feast” on Him -- in His body and blood, His Word, His atonement, His forgiveness, His love, the hope of eternal life, our baptism, and on and on, for our Triune God endlessly provides us with His immeasurable blessings of faith in Jesus, through the worship service.

***“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,***

***to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints***

***what is the width and length and depth and height to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.***

***Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly***

***above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages,***

***world without end. Amen.”*** Ephesians 3:14-21 NKJV