

MATTHEW 25



Whatever you do for the least ...

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

Last Sunday of the Church Year November 26th, 2023

The *Gospel* for this Sunday presents us with the second of two aspects of Jesus' preparation of His disciples for the coming of the end. Together with the parable of the talents from last Sunday, Jesus teaches two complementary answers to the question that is implicit in the parable of the ten virgins from two weeks ago: "How shall we live as we wait and watch for the unexpected hour of Christ's return?" As we worship this morning, we ask the Lord to help us to be ready for His return.

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. If you are not partaking of the Lord's Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

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.

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want 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.

The Christian Life

For the same reason we have personal calendars to guide us, Christians also follow a calendar called the Church Year. It guides us through the remembrance of God's many promises. And, as we expect to wear clothing that prepares us for the weather of a season; the Church has clothing, readings, banners, coverings, and colors that prepare our hearts to receive Jesus throughout the different seasons of the Church Year.

Bell Choir "A Prayer on SLANE"

Opening Hymn 534 "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor"

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

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *(Psalm 130:3-4)*

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:
C **God, be merciful to me, a sinner.** *(Luke 18:13)*

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Adult Choir "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise" *(LSB 680)*

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 39:4-5a, 7-8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV

P In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,

C the home of righteousness.

P O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;

C let me know how fleeting I am!

P Behold, You have made my days a few handbreadths,

C and my lifetime is as nothing before You.

P And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?

C my hope is in You.

P Deliver me from all my transgressions.

C Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

P Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not Your peace at my tears!

C For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my fathers.

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 In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,

C the home of righteousness.

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

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

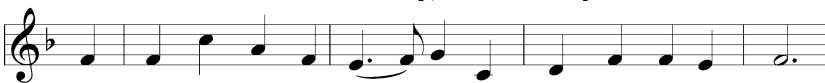
Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

LSB 204

(Luke 2:14; John 1:29)



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

(Luke 2:14; John 1:29)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

¹¹For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I Myself will be the shepherd of My sheep, and I Myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind

up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I Myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue My flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

P These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

C **They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

P Blessèd are those whose strength is in You,

C **in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a Man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For “God has put all things in subjection under His feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

(John 20:31)



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³¹Jesus said "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³²Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.'

⁴¹"Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

⁴²For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' ⁴⁵Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn 430 "My Song Is Love Unknown"

Sermon Text

Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon “The End-Time Life, Part 2: The Orthodox Life”

1. God calls Christians to live an _____ .
2. The call to live an orthodox life can make us feel _____
_____ .
3. Who among us has lived this orthodox life? Only one: _____ .

Hymn 698 “May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”

Prayers

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

(Colossians 3:1)

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(Psalm 136)

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9) *LSB 208*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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

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.

The Words of Our Lord

(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

Pax Domini ~ The Peace of the Lord (John 20:19)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God (John 1:29)

LSB 210



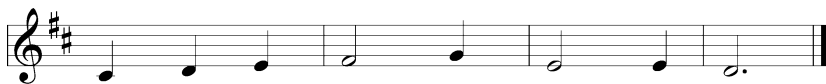
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Hymn 623 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

Hymn 642 "O Living Bread from Heaven"

Hymn 629 "What Is This Bread"

Hymn 617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

Nunc Dimittis ~ Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32)

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus ~ Let Us Bless (Psalm 103:1)

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 844 "Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Parish Fellowship Committee will meet tomorrow at 10:30 am.

Altar flowers are given by Beth, Evelyn, Josephine, and Andrew Miller in thanksgiving for Nathan's birthday. We praise our glorious King, Jesus Christ for His many blessings to our family.

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 AM. 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: 11/29, 12/13, 12/27 *If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxe.*

For those who would like to give their offerings to the Lord electronically, there is a QR Code link posted next to the offering box in the Narthex.

Poinsettias for Christmas: if you'd like to provide a plant, you may bring it to the church by December 17 (mark it & you may take it home after Christmas morning). If you'd like to donate money towards plants, any amount is appreciated, and may be given to any altar attendant. Thank you.

Check it out! Don't miss the church and library cart in the Narthex today. This week we've added some books from the Duck Dynasty members. We have two books written by Phil Robertson, the founder of Duck Dynasty: "Happy, Happy, Happy" and "UnPHILtered. "The Duck Commander Family" by Willie and Korie Robertson. "The Women of Duck Commander" by Kay, Korie, Missy, Jessica, and Lisa Robertson. Finally, "Si-Ology 101 " by Si Robertson. We also added "What is the Real Mike Lindell" by Mike Lindell, the founder of My Pillow.

Calendar of Events

TODAYNovember 26th, 2023

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
 Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am
 Bell Choir Practice5:00 pm
 Adult Choir Practice6:00 pm

MON:

Parish Fellowship Meeting..... 10:30 am
 Voters' Meeting 7:00 pm

TUES:

Board of Lay Ministry Meeting6:30 pm

WED: No School

Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:30 am
 Day School Chapel 11:00 am

THURS:

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study 9:30 am
 8th Grade Public School Confirmation5:00 pm
 New Member Class 2.0..... 7:00 pm

FRI:

Holy Walk 6:00-9:00 pm

SAT:

Holy Walk..... 5:00-9:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAYDecember 3rd, 2023

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
 Worship Service..... 9:30 am
 Scrip Day
 Adult Basketball..... 2:00 - 4:00 pm
 Bell Choir Practice5:00 pm
 Adult Choir Practice6:00 pm

There will be a short LWML meeting before Advent service, Wednesday, December 6, to finalize plans for "Cheer Boxes."

LWML will be packing “Cheer Boxes” for St Paul's home-bound members **on December 10**. We normally fill 12-15 boxes, and appreciate any baked goods, candies, or snack items. Please bring **1 1/2 to 2 dozen individually-wrapped** items to the church kitchen the morning of December 10. They will be delivered by the carolers that evening. Thank you in advance.

The Chrismon Tree will be adorned, along with the church proper, narthex, and possibly, a Bethany Room tree this Saturday, **December 2, beginning at 9:30 am**. Anyone Grade 6 and older is welcome to come and assist altar guild in beautifying the Lord's house in preparation for the seasons of Advent & Christmas.

We will also have an opportunity for the children who are younger than 6th grade to come create an ornament to decorate a tree in the Bethany Room. Please come join in this time of fellowship while we decorate our Lord's house and look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus!

PTL is hosting a few things to make your Christmas planning easier:

- **The students are selling popcorn through The Dutch Kernel until December 6th**. There are many flavors to choose from, and the orders will be in on the 22nd. An order form is on the Check It Out board. See a student for ordering!
- **Purchase your Christmas gift cards through SCRIP** and PTL receives commission to help support Youth ministries! Orders can be taken from the school office, Heidi Wildauer, or online at *raiserright.com*. Enrollment code: *9EF639F559681*.
- **Cookie Exchange- December 15th, 2:30pm**. Bring 1-4 dozen cookies, bars, or fudge to share, with the recipe (optional), on December 14th, and swap cookies to make your Christmas baking a little easier. We ask that you only swap for the number of items that you brought. Sign-up is on the table in the narthex.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Wildauer, Rebecca Mejia, or Jennifer Harman.

Midweek Advent Services are December 6th & 13th with dinner at 6:00 pm and worship at 7:00 pm. Come and fill your body with good food and your soul with the life changing food of God's Word. Everyone is welcome! These are great nights to bring a friend to church.

Special Concerns:

That, little by little and one act of love at a time, we model the life Christ lives in us, by treating others with the same love we have experienced in Him.

For the family and friends of Beatrice Hughes (Joe's mother) who was called to her eternal rest in Jesus this past week.

For Pastor Rafael & Jamielynn Flores and Pastor Micah Wildauer and their work in foreign missions.

For the Lord's guidance in calling a new Administrative Pastor.

That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.

For our country and her leaders.

Pray for all Christians who are suffering from war and the trials of this world as they shine the light of their risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

Tim and Brenda Jank, Directors of Camp Lutherhaven, lost a son last week from long-term illness, and are also supporting a daughter through cancer treatments. If you would like to help them by purchasing gift cards for food or gas, suggestions are Subway, Half Acre Café, Pizza Depot, Whistle Stop Pizza, Walmart, Kroger, Visa, and Amazon. Cards can be sent to 1596 S. 150 W., Albion, IN, 46701. Prayers are appreciated while they go through this difficult time.

From the Board of Christian Ed - WANTED: SMALL CATECHISMS

Christ in the hearts of Liberian children. Joe Boway founded the Liberian Children's Ministry in 2004. This ministry is now supporting 6,000 students in 15 Lutheran schools in Liberia, Africa. Over 75% of the new students are from a non-church background. To help the children learn about Jesus and the Christian faith, Joe's goal in 2023 is to collect used and new Small Catechisms to send to Liberia for each student to read in English. They can be used or new in any edition as long as it is in English. You can also purchase catechisms at ebay.com and from used book dealers, such as thriftbooks.com. For more information, you may contact Joe and Glendora Boway at 260-447-7639 or boway@aol.com.

We would like to support this mission. It is amazing the schools have grown so much in less than 20 years. The Lord has certainly blessed these schools and the leadership of Joe Boway. There is a box in the back of the Narthex marked "Catechisms for Liberian Schools." If you have extra catechisms at home or wish to purchase new or used copies, we will get them to Joe Boway for these children hungry for the Gospel! Thank you for blessing these children and this congregation with your support.

Congregational Christmas Caroling is Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 pm. You are invited to come and make a joyful noise unto the Lord to the shut-ins of our church and community. We will meet in the Bethany room at 4:00 pm to break up into groups and then go out and sing. At 6:00 pm we will return to the church for dinner and fellowship. Please bring a dessert to share at the meal. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Come and share the Good News of Christmas!

The Children's Christmas Service is December 20th at 7:00 pm. The children of our preschool and day school will participate in this service and share with us the birth of Jesus. Everyone is welcome!

Haiti Art is Here! Please see the table in the Narthex if you would like to purchase a unique decoration for your home or a Christmas gift. There is tin art as well as a few paintings.

You may wonder why we have chosen to host this sale so we'd like to give you a little background info. The unemployment rate in Haiti is 14.8% and the average annual income is approximately \$1200. Many Haitian people have created "home businesses" like roasting coffee beans, making soaps or creating art as a means to support their families. Tourism was a main source to sell their items but due to political upheaval, violence, and gang activity, tourism has substantially decreased. The teachers in the Lutheran schools receive a salary of \$50 a month from Mission Haiti. If we can keep the schools open then the children receive the gospel as well as a noon meal (often the only meal they get that day). They in turn take the gospel home to their families. Four of us from St. Paul's were able to join a mission team in 2015 to Jeremie and Port Au Prince. We could see how receptive the children are to hearing God's word and learning about salvation through Jesus. Their joy is contagious! God is doing great things through the schools.

All proceeds from this "Art Sale" will go to support the Lutheran school teachers in Jeremie, Haiti. There are suggested donation prices listed with the artwork. If you need to write a check, please make it out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and put Haiti art in the memo line. Then we will send one check to Mission Haiti. If you are not interested in purchasing anything but would still like to donate, please feel free to do that. There will be a box on the table. Most importantly, we ask for you to keep the people of Haiti in your prayers. Voo doo is still practiced there, making it a very important mission field. Thank you for your love and generosity for God's children in Haiti. Please see Terry or Janet Miller if you have any questions.

The 39th annual “Weinachts Vesper” (a Christmas Service in the German language) will be held at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 3rd, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 51490 Laurel Rd, (corner of Auto and Laurel roads) in South Bend. A time of fellowship will follow the service. Contact the church office at 574-271-1050 for more information.

YOUTH NEWS

Christmas Eve Service: For those Youth in Grades 4-8 planning to participate in the Christmas Eve Service (Sunday, December 24th at 7 pm), practices will be on the following dates after the church service and last approximately an hour:

Sunday, December 3rd

Sunday, December 10th

Sunday, December 17th

Sunday, December 24th (we may hold this practice in the evening before the service) If you have questions, please contact Andy Wildauer.

SCHOOL CORNER

We hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends, and enjoyed a nice break from school. There are only four weeks of school until Christmas Break!

DARE Graduation for 5th and 6th Graders is December 1st, 1:30pm, in the BHS Auditorium. Any one is invited to attend. The students have been meeting with Officer Schnaible to learn about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, peer pressure, and bullying, and how to respond to them.

Congratulations to our 1st Quarter Honor Roll students: “A” Honor Roll- Josie Wildauer (5th), Alexis Andrews, (8th), Abby Wildauer (7th), and Sophia Sahlhoff (8th); “B” Honor Roll- Emiliano Mejia (5th), Kamden Guse (8th), Kellan Guse (6th), Rachel Rogers (5th), and Harmony Prior (6th).

All of our students are busy practicing for the Children’s Christmas Service, December 20th, 7:00pm. Please help your students with their parts, parents, and ALL are invited to join us that evening for the celebration of Jesus’s Birthday.

We thank you for your continued prayers this school year.

Please remember to give to the SGO!

We will continue to use SGO scholarships to assist with tuition, so **please continue to give, and remember you will receive a tax credit and deduction for your donations!**

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. 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 Nov. 26, 2023

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Todd Haug & Dakota Schmeltz

Acolyte: Brantley Thornton

Elder: Bill Rogers

Communion Assistant: Larry Britt

Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship Dec. 3, 2023

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Larry Britt & Bruce Augustine

Acolyte: Avery Cannon

Elder: Jon Rettinger

Communion Assistant: Larry Britt

Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott