

7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:7-9



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

First Sunday in Advent December 3, 2023

The church year begins with Advent. Advent has a strong focus on the coming of the Lord. While, of course, we look forward to Jesus' coming at Christmas, we have to look forward to the coming of the Lord on the Last Day.

Welcome to those who worship with us this morning!

<u>The Lord's Supper</u> 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

<u>US.</u> 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.

<u>The Church Year - Paraments are liturgical vestments</u>, altar cloths, and banners used during the worship services. They adorn the church chancel and are designed to highlight the various seasons and festival days with specific symbols and colors which are changed according to the church calendar.

The Time of Christmas: Includes the seasons Advent (Blue or Violet), Christmas (White), and Epiphany (White or Green). During Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ, in Christmas Jesus' birth, and in Epiphany the proclamation of His birth to the Gentiles.

Opening Hymn 332 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19b)
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

(Hebrews 10:22)

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **©** who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)
- C Amen.

Adult Choir "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" (LSB 356)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Introit

Psalm 25:1-3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b

- P Behold, your king is coming to you;
- righteous and having salvation.
- P To You, O LORD,
- I lift up my soul.

- P O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;
- let not my enemies exult over me.
- Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
- they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- 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 Behold, your king is coming to you;
- righteous and having salvation.



Salutation and Collect of the Day



(2 Timothy 4:22)

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence—

 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make Your name known to Your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at Your presence! ³When You did awesome things that we did not look for, You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence.

⁴From of old no one has heard

or perceived by the ear,

no eye has seen a God besides You,

who acts for those who wait for Him.

⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember You in Your ways.

Behold, You were angry, and we sinned;

in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,

and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls upon Your name, who rouses himself to take hold of You;

for You have hidden Your face from us,

and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

⁸But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand.

⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all Your people.

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Proper

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26

- P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
- **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**
- P Behold, your King is coming to you;
- **©** righteous and having salvation.
- P Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- From the house of the Lord we bless You.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the

testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24–37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.



²⁴Jesus said: "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then He will send out the angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that He is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

³²NBut concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 696 "O God, My Faithful God"

Sermon Text

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Sermon	"Waiting 1	for (Christ"

1. Even though they do not look it, Paul sees the Corinthians as	
, eagerly waiting for the revealing of Jesus Chri	ist
2. How would God see us when it is also difficult to see ourselves a	IS
guiltless and eagerly waiting for the	_
?	
3. Paul sees the Corinthians not as they appear but as	

God Sees Us Guiltless in Jesus Christ as We Wait for Him.

4. Because of the cross, God sees us as having the sinless life of

Jesus, guiltless and ______ .

5. Therefore, we can eagerly wait for the revealing of Jesus Christ,

knowing that we are ______ .

Hymn 349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

Prayers

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

LSB 179

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

~ Installation of Sunday School Teachers ~

Benedicamus ~ *Let Us Bless* (*Psalm 103:1*)

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.



Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



Closng Hymn 331 "The Advent of Our King"

Acknowledgments

TOD 1 17

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Calendar of Events

TODAY	December 3rd, 2023
Sunday School & Bible Classes	
Worship Service	9:30 am
Scrip Day	
Adult Basketball	2:00 - 4:00 pm
Bell Choir Practice	5:00 pm
Adult Choir Practice	6:00 pm
MON:	
TUES:	
WED:	
Day School Chapel	
Advent Dinner - Chili	
Short LWML meeting	6:30ish pm
Advent Service	7:00 pm
THURS:	
Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study	9:30 am
FRI:	
Preschool Chapel	9:30 am
SAT:	
NEXT SUNDAY	
Sunday School & Bible Classes	8:30 am
Worship Service with Communion	
Adult Basketball	
Congregation Christmas Carolling	
No Bell or Adult Choir Practice	5:00 pm

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.

Thank you from Robin Spicher for all the prayers and cards during her healing time.

9

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. All proceeds will go to support the Lutheran school teachers in the Jeremie area. There are suggested donation prices listed with the artwork. If you have any questions, please see Terry or Janet Miller. Thank you for your love and generosity for God's children in Haiti

<u>Voters' Assembly Minutes</u> – Copies of the minutes from the Monday, November 27 Voters' Assembly meeting are available on the table in the narthex. The minutes contain information about the church and school budget for 2024. If the supply has run out and you desire a copy for yourself, please contact Ken Eichinger. If you prefer an electronic copy, email Ken at keneichinger@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who cooked turkeys, baked pies, donated funds, cooked sides, assembled meals, greeted guests, delivered meals, served, and cleaned up at our Community Thanksgiving Dinner! We greatly appreciate your hard work and generosity! Thanks to Thrivent for sponsoring the meal with needed funds.

Thank you to all who donated peanut butter to Bremen Bags, and to those who donated clothes to Hope Ministries! You have shown generosity and compassion to our neighbors in the name of Jesus.

<u>Midweek Advent Meal</u> on December 6th from 6:00-6:45 pm is sponsored by The Board of Public Relations. On the menu is chili, cornbread, and cookies. This is also sponsored by Thrivent. Parish Fellowship will be supplying the drinks and dinnerware. Let us come together and feast on good food, and then on the Word of God in the worship service at 7:00 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 10th. 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 10th. They will be delivered by the carolers that evening. Thank you for the care and love you show to our shut ins.

2nd Thursday Bible Study will meet Thursday, **Dec 14th**. We are on the parable of "The Unmerciful Servant" (Matthew 18:21-35).

Congregational Christmas Caroling - Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 pm. You are invited to come and make a joyful noise unto the Lord and 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 Hospitality Group will be making meals on Wednesday, December 13th at 9:00 am. We are in need of canned gravy, canned sweet potatoes, and individually wrapped treats such as brownies, cookies, etc. They can be placed on the table in the Narthex. Thank you.

The Board of Christian Ed. is in need of individually wrapped candy to fill "goodie" bags for the Children's Christmas Service. Donations may be placed in the designated box located in the Narthex by Sunday, December 17th. Thanks for your help!

* Special Note – There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 24th.

Midweek Advent Meal on December 13th from 6:00-6:45 pm will be A POTLUCK DINNER - PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE. Parish Fellowship will be supplying the drinks and dinnerware. Let us come together and feast on good food, and then on the Word of God in the worship service at 7:00 pm.

The Christmas parties for the residents at the Cardinal Houses will take place on December 15th. More details to come. If you have any questions or want to participate, please call Wayne Spicher or Pastor Wonnacott.

Christmas Lunch for the Bremen Police Department will be on December 18th at noon. The food will be provided by an action team card from Thrivent. We need a few desserts, and we are also in need of Christmas cards for our men and women on the force. If you are willing to help, please call Wayne Spicher or Pastor Wonnacott.

Things to Remember in Prayer This Week Thanksgiving: God sees us guiltless in Jesus Christ as we wait for Him.

For Mackenzie Taelor Kyuyoung Lee born to Taesup and Kelly (Rettinger) Lee on Monday, November 27th. Celebrating Birthdays: 5th-Sara Sahlhoff; 8th-Karen Matthew Those who are ill: Steve Brown (Ann Knepper's brother); Goldie Buckner; Pat Cherry; Philip Chrisman; Goldie Clark (Thelma Quesenberry's Mom); **DeWayne Creighton** (Kelly Sienicki's dad); Jonathan Davis (Terri Davis' son); Peyton Dobbins; Daniel Enders (Beth's nephew); **Fred Garrett** (Tammy Britt's step brother-cancer); Staci Goede (Peggy Swanson's niece-cancer); Adason Goffinet (Robin Spicher's cousin-leukemia); Meagan Gunter (Alice Shepherd's granddaughter); Penny Holderman; Elbia Hundt; Michael Hundt (Scott's cousin); Scott Hundt; Holly Johnson (friend of Coxey & Tinkey families); Alice Kater (Cheryl Ervin's friend); Brandon Kincaid (Wayne Andrews' nephew-heart issues); Sharon Latzke; Frank Krause (Joann Wonnacott's brother-illness); Roberta Meiring; Tabatha Miller (Noah's wife); Carol Lynch (Virginia's granddaughter); Carla Morawski (Deanna Miller's Mom-stroke); Nancy Mast (Peggy Miller's aunt); Rene & Antonio Mejia (cousins of Rebecca's family); John Moerer (friend of Andy Wildauer); Al, Vicki, & Shaney Neher (car accident): Steve Nelson (Lee Anglemyer's friend): Lois Nielsen: Tim **Olson** (Luke Wonnacott's father-in-law): **Melinda Polson** (Mary Ingle's

Special Concerns:

That we would more eagerly anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. For Pastor Rafael & Jamielynn Flores and Pastor Micah Wildauer and their work in foreign missions.

daughter); Clay Rassi (Bruce Schmidt's friend-cancer); Betty Sahlhoff; Leo Sahlhoff; Lillian Salyer; Jeff Sarber; Cliff & Sandie Schooler; Barb Shell; Jamie Spiese (Sandy Kiefer's friend); Lori Stacy; Phil Stevens (Susan Furman's brother-in-law); Robin Sunderman (Wendy Coxey's sister); Charlesette Wagner (Kim's sister-in-law); Memphis Ward (pre-K student); Bo Weldy; Joann Wonnacott; Troy Yoder

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, recently lost a son 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.

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 raiseright.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.

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 begin today after the church service. Practices will continue on the following dates after the church service and last approximately an hour. It is important for Youth to attend each practice so we can plan properly for delivery of the Christmas Gospel on Christmas Eve:

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.

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

SCHOOL CORNER

There are three weeks left before Christmas Break and the end of the 2023 school year. This is both a beautiful time of year and a harsh and busy one. We experience the dark and cold of winter weather, while anticipating during Advent, the bright light of Jesus's birth. If you travel into the school, you will find brightly decorated classrooms and lots of winter gear! There is a buildup of excitement (and noise) as the students gear up for Christmas and vacation. The teachers are also busy wrapping up another quarter and preparing the students for the Children's Christmas Service, December 20th, 7:00pm.

We thank you, teachers, for ALL you do! Please "do not grow weary in doing good" this hectic time of year. We see your hard work and hearts, and appreciate you!

One of our teachers, Mark Wildauer, has been nominated for the Distinguished Elementary Teacher Award through the Lutheran Education Association. Mark is not only a dedicated teacher, but provides a lot of leadership and coaching with numerous sports in the community. Congratulations, Mark, on your nomination!

A reminder that if you are ordering popcorn from a student, the orders and money need to be turned in by the 6th. Orders will arrive on the 22nd, and commission from the sales benefits PTL. Also, the PTL Cookie Exchange will be December 15th, 2:30pm. Bring a dozen or more cookies, bars, or fudge and swap them for other treats.

Please mark your calendars for the Children's Christmas Service, December 20th, 7:00pm! PTL will host a cookie reception afterwards. Students are expected to participate and arrive by 6:40pm.

We thank you for your continued prayers this school year.

December is your last chance to donate to the SGO and get a 2022 tax credit! We continue to use SGO scholarships to assist with tuition, so please continue to give, and receive the 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. Please contact Jennifer Harman, in the school office, if you have questions.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.

NOTICE REGARDING VOTERS MEETINGS IN 2024

In the November 27th, 2023 congregational voters meeting, a motion was made and approved to change the schedule for congregational voters meetings in 2024. The change in schedule was made to give members a better opportunity to attend the voters meetings where there may have been schedule conflicts with other activities outside of St. Paul's or where the normal congregational voters meeting time of 7PM was a problem for members who cannot drive at night.

The schedule for 2024 congregational voters meetings is as follows:

Sunday, January 21st after worship service, in the Bethany room/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 21st after worship service, in the Bethany room /Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 24th – 7PM in the Bethany room/Fellowship Hall Sunday, August 18th after worship service, in the Bethany room/Fellowship Hall

Monday, November $25^{th} - 7PM$ in the Bethany room/Fellowship Hall

There will be a babysitting service available for families with young children who want to attend the Sunday voters meetings that will be held after worship service. Heidi Wildauer has agreed to organize this. If you have interest in using this service or in assisting in providing this service, please contact Heidi.

If you have questions regarding the congregational voters meetings or schedules for them, please contact Dave Burcham.

You Are Invited To Our Advent and Christmas Services

Midweek Advent Dinners – Dec. 6th & 13th at 6:00 pm

Midweek Advent Services – Dec. 6th & 13th at 7:00 pm

Children's Christmas Service – Dec. 20th at 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Dec. 24th at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Service – Dec. 25th at 9:30 am

New Years' Eve Service – Dec. 31st at 9:30 am

No evening New Year's Eve Service

Servants for Today's Worship December 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

Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship December 10, 2023

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

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Austin Nielsen & Mark Wildauer

Acolyte: Reuben & Colton Napper

Elder: Larry Britt

Communion Assistant: Bill Rogers

Video Streamer: Tyler & Dakota Schmeltz