

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
His mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is Your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23



*Rejoice!*

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

Welcome to all who are here to worship with us today. May you always hold fast to the promise given to us at Jesus' birth and be confident that His will and plans are perfect. May He bless you and your family in the coming New Year.

***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.

**Rejoice!** There are 2 Hebrew words to describe joy (simchah) and rejoice (samach). These appear nearly 250 times in the Old Testament. In Greek it is chara and chairō which are used over 125 times in the New Testament. They don't just mean happy, but can be used to express many things like joyfulness, mirth, pleasure, delight, rejoicing, and gladness. Sometimes exceedingly so! These words express joy in our hearts, in songs and music, worship, praise, and thanksgiving – in **all** things. As we enter a new year look for the many ways in which we can rejoice. Our God is a God of exceeding joy! **Rejoice in Him!**

***Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say rejoice!***

*Philippians 4:4*

## Opening Hymn 389 "Let All Together Praise Our God"

### ✠ 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** 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,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.** *(Psalm 124:8)*
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** *(Psalm 32:5)*
- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** **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.**

### ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

#### Introit

*Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10*

- P** The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
**C** **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**
- P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

**C** His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

**P** The LORD has made known His salvation;

**C** He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**P** He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**C** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

**C** break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**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** The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

**C** and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

LSB 186



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**Gloria in Excelsis** ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

LSB 187

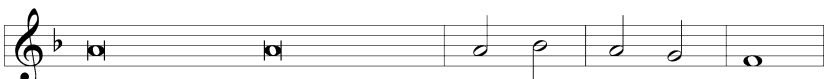
(Luke 2:14; John 1:29)



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

*(2 Timothy 4:22)*

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who

made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 61:10—62:3*

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful  
headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

<sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

**P** To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;

**C** **and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

**P** And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**C** **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**P** Sing to the Lord a new song,

**C** **for He has done marvelous things!**

## Epistle

*Galatians 4:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia

*LSB 190*



**G** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:22–40*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



**G** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for THEIR purification according to the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>"Lord, now You are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to Your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen Your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to Your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And Joseph and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**G** 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 † of the world to come. Amen.**

**Hymn 519** "In His Temple Now Behold Him"

**Sermon Text**

*Luke 2:25-40*

**Sermon** "Not Too Late for Christmas"

**Offertory** (*Psalm 51:10-12*)

*LSB 192*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

**Prayers**

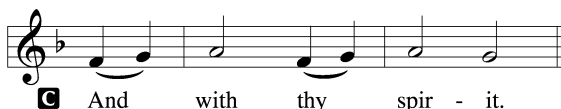
† SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT †

**Preface**

*LSB 194*

**P** The Lord be with you.

*(2 Timothy 4:22)*



And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

*(Colossians 3:1)*



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

*(Psalm 136)*



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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 195*



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**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*) LSB 196

**Pax Domini** ~ *The Peace of the Lord* (*John 20:19*) LSB 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

**Agnus Dei** ~ *Lamb of God* (*John 1:29*) LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

**Hymn 360** "All My Heart Again Rejoices"


**Hymn 636** "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

**Hymn 642** "O Living Bread from Heaven"

**Hymn 362** "O Sing of Christ"

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

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

**Thanksgiving** (*Psalms 107:1*)

LSB 200

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**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.



**G** A - men.

**P** The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



**G** And with thy spir - it.

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

LSB 202

**P** Bless we the Lord.



**G** Thanks be to God.

**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.



**G** A-men, a-men, a - men.

**Closing Hymn 898 "The Ancient Law Departs"**

**Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

**Meals on Wheels Door Offering Today After the Worship Service:**

We would like to keep our prices low so that meals can be affordable for all seniors. Checks may be made payable to St Paul's Lutheran Church with Meals on Wheels noted in the memo section. If you have questions about the program, you may contact Joanna Fox.

## Calendar of Events

**TODAY** ..... **December 31st, 2023**

Joint Sunday School & Bible Class Breakfast/Hymn Sing..... 8:30 am

Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am

No Evening Worship Service..... 7:00 pm

No Bell or Choir Practice.....

**MON:** ..... ~ **No School: Classes Resume January 8th** ~ .....

**TUES:**

**WED:**

**THURS:**

**FRI:**

**SAT:**

**NEXT SUNDAY** ..... **January 7th, 2024**

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am

Worship Service..... 9:30 am

No Bell or Adult Choir Practice.....

**The flower chart for 2024 is up!** It is hanging in the Narthex next to the Altar Guild room. Please feel free to sign up if you'd like to place flowers on the altar.

**The new Portals of Prayer and Hope-full Living magazines** for January-March 2024 **and LWML Winter Quarterly** are in the tract rack in the Narthex.

**The next Parish Fellowship Meeting** is Wed., January 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

**Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study** will resume **January 11<sup>th</sup>**.

## YOUTH NEWS

**Thank you** to all of the Youth who participated in the Christmas Eve Service. What a wonderful opportunity to share the Good News of the Christ Child's birth and that our Savior has come. Blessings to all of you in 2024!

**Youth Activities (early 2024):** The Youth Board is planning various activities for the New Year, the first of which will be **ice skating for Youth in Grades 4-High School tentatively scheduled on Sunday, January 14th** (Time to be determined). Look for more information in the weeks ahead through our Youth communication channels. For now, Youth interested in attending should sign up on the Youth bulletin board so we can plan. If you have questions, please contact Andy Wildauer.

## **NOTICE REGARDING VOTERS MEETINGS IN 2024**

In the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup> after worship service, in the Bethany (big) room

Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> after worship service, in the Bethany (big) room

Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> – 7PM in the Bethany room/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> after worship service, in the Bethany (big) room

Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – 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.

**All 6th-8th students are invited to join us, with their parents and grandparents,** for **Sunday School each Sunday from 8:30-9:15** in the Middle School classroom of the school, starting **Sunday January 7th, 2024**. We will Launch into the teen years with videos and discussions about topics your children will face during adolescence. We encourage 6th-8th grade children, parents, and grandparents to join us as you have an important role to help your children navigate the teen years in a God pleasing way. This 6-8 week study will discuss your child's self-identity, peer relationships and dating, the physical changes of puberty, and God's loving design for our sexuality. The study will be led by Mark and Heidi Wildauer and we are open to meeting with any parents that desire to preview the content we will cover ahead of time. We will have 1 teen journal available for each child (suggested donation \$13) to use throughout this study. As we begin the New Year, we will help parents and children have the necessary discussions that will prepare them for adolescence, and help them thrive through these years of change ahead. God's blessings to you all this Christmas, and we'll see you in January.

## SCHOOL CORNER

**Happy New Year from the students and staff of St. Paul's schools! We hope you had a peaceful and joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior, with family and friends. We thank all of you for your support of the school, whether it is through finances, volunteering, or prayer. We appreciate all of you!**

**Check out our Kindergarten and First Grade Classes on the school bulletin board in the narthex!** All of our kindergarteners came through our Preschool and we have one new student (Nolan Helton) in the First Grade class. That's a total of 15 students between the two classes!

We have ended our Second Quarter of school, and will start the second half of the school year when we resume January 8, 2024.

**We thank you for your continued prayers this school year.**

---

**Today is your last chance to donate to the SGO and get a 2023 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! **Now, there is a link to donate to the LSGO on the church's website under the School drop-down menu.**

You can also find several (easy) ways to donate at [www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate](http://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.**

### Servants for Today's Worship December 31, 2023

Pastor Gregory Fiechtner

Organist: Ellen Augustine

Ushers: Eric Thornton & Richard Sickman

Acolyte: Reuben & Colton Napper

Elder: Dennis Sienicki

Communion Assistant: Larry Britt

Video Streamer: Tyler & Dakota Schmeltz



**Servants for Next Sunday's Worship January 7, 2024**

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

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Dakota & Tyler Schmeltz

Acolyte:

Elder: Jon Rettinger

Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott