

From Pastor Wonnacott's keyboard:

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Website:

stpaulsbremen.church
facebook.com/stpaulsbremen
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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

Advent and Christmas time is here again. Can you hear in your head the Peanuts Christmas special theme? Remember Charlie Brown and Linus Van Pelt leaning on the wall outside and contemplating what Christmas would be like this year? We all know that Charlie Brown never received the same kind of gifts as the other kids in his neighborhood.

This Christmas season is different for Charlie Brown. He has been selected to be the director of the Christmas play. It starts out fine, until he meets the other kids he must direct. He encounters painful rejection by them, even by Snoopy, his beloved dog, who boos at him.

This is when Charlie Brown asks, “**What is Christmas all about?**” Linus Van Pelt calls for a light and then proclaims:

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

*¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, **Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.***

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

*¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; **Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.***

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:8-14 KJV

I realize that we are not characters in the Peanut's special, but you and I can be like Linus Van Pelt and tell everyone what Christmas is all about. **Jesus came down from heaven to save us all from sin, death, and the power of the devil.**

A Blessed Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY EPISTLE IS DECEMBER 20TH!!! 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.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US

Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose “e-tithing” by having a weekly deposit to St Paul’s from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES

Recent Events

- **YOUTH SERVICE / REFORMATION SUNDAY (October 29th):** The Youth of our congregation, ranging in age from the Day School through High School, contributed before and during our annual Youth Service on Reformation Sunday. Some served as greeters, ushers, and readers, while we had a cross bearer and testimonial shared with the congregation. Many of our Youth also glorified God through their musical talents. Thank you to all who participated.
- **CAMPFIRE NIGHT (November 4th):** Eight of our younger Youth gathered together on a chilly Saturday for our annual Campfire Night. Complete with a wagon ride, food, and fellowship, we gathered around the warmth of the campfire for a devotion about God speaking to Moses through the burning bush and proclaiming his name as “I AM.”



Upcoming Events

- **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (December 24th at 7 pm):** Our Youth will once again have an opportunity to share the Christmas Gospel message as in years past. Please join us if you are able as we will present “Christmas by the Book” throughout portions of the service.

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

Ushers: It is very important that you find your own replacement if you are not going to be able to usher during your assigned time. Please take the time to do this so that we always have ushers available to assist our members and visitors. Thank you.

A note from the Evangelism Board

On November 13th the Board of Evangelism packed and delivered 45 Welcome Bags in Bremen! Thank you to all who packed and delivered bags! Thank you also for all the donated snacks, dishcloths, yarn and prayers! Please continue to pray for our new neighbors. We will be going out again in March. Watch for ways you can help in the Epistle and bulletin next year!

Epistle- School Corner

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year already! We had a great attendance at the Pilgrim Meal, November 14th. The students provided artwork, crafts, and songs for the meal. We also packed ten Thanksgiving boxes and purchased twelve Woodies gift certificates for Grace Food Pantry. Thank you to all who contributed items, packed boxes, and provided the delicious food (PTL). We appreciate you!

The students are preparing for the Children's Christmas Program on December 20th, 7:00pm, and looking forward to Christmas Break. As we all prepare in this busy season, may we all pause to turn our focus to celebrating Christ's Birthday and our salvation through Him.

Becoming a Choice (voucher) school has helped with tuition for many of our families. We received the first scholarship payment from the state the end of October. Our next payments will come in March and the end of May. We also offer additional scholarships through the LSGO (Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization), a Church Partnership Scholarship for active membership in a student's home church, and a School Partnership Scholarship for those who volunteer within the school and PTL; as well as using the Tuition Assistance Fund as needed. Some of our families are able to receive full scholarship awards, making a Christian school education affordable.

Since we still use the LSGO to help cover remaining tuition costs for eligible families, we need to maintain funds in the SGO. **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. If you desire to mail a check to the LSGO, pamphlets with mailing information are available in the tract rack. **(Checks needs to be written to the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization.)**

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

Mission of the Month

Our Sunday School continues to send \$75.00 each month to a mission.

December Mission of the Month: AbleLight, formerly Bethesda Lutheran Communities

Bethesda officially changed its name to **AbleLight** but the mission remains the same -- to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.

AbleLight states: We believe the world shines brighter when people with developmental disabilities achieve their full potential.

For more information, go to ablelight.org

Preschool Postings

Our preschoolers spent November learning about shepherd boy David who became King David; King Solomon who built the temple; and Naaman, who was healed of his leprosy. The Beginners studied numbers, along with counting and sorting. The PreK class met the letter people K, D, and F and discovered all their fun characteristics. All the children enjoyed chopping vegetables for our annual Stone Soup, and they ate a lot of it with their families! We wrapped up the month with Thanksgiving activities, and started learning songs for the Children's Christmas Service. May you experience the joy of Christmas every day, given to all who believe by our Savior, the Christ Child!

Midweek Advent Meal 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.

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.

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 service

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.

TAX-PLANNING STRATEGIES

As we approach the end of the calendar year, there is still time to implement tax-planning

strategies that can help you minimize your tax burden in 2023 and/or longer term.

ROTH CONVERSIONS

The end of the year may be an optimal time to consider a Roth conversion because income and tax brackets can be easier to estimate. Roth conversions allow you to take a portion of your qualified pre-tax retirement account assets (traditional individual retirement accounts (IRAs), rollover IRAs, etc.) and convert them to a Roth IRA. The conversion creates taxable income for the year in which it occurs and cannot be undone. However, despite incurring this initial tax liability, Roth conversions can offer several long-term benefits.

- By decreasing the tax-deferred account balance on which your required minimum distributions (RMDs) are calculated, you reduce your RMDs and thereby reduce taxable income long term.
- Roth accounts act as a long-term hedge against increasing tax rates, whether those increases result from higher income or changes to tax law.
- Not only does reducing RMD income lower taxes long term, it also decreases Medicare premiums during RMD years.
- Assets that are converted to a Roth account grow tax free during and beyond your lifetime, creating a tax-efficient way to transfer wealth to beneficiaries.

CHARITABLE STRATEGIES

If you are currently subject to RMDs, and you have not yet fulfilled your 2023 RMD obligation, you can make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)¹ directly to charitable organizations. QCDs allow charitable giving directly from an IRA to an eligible charity for up to \$100,000 per person per year. Starting in 2024, this amount will be indexed annually for inflation. The QCD lowers your taxable RMD, which lowers your adjusted gross income (AGI) dollar for dollar—meaning that you do not need to claim the itemized deduction to benefit from this charitable strategy.

NOTE: Before entering into any of these financial transactions we would always recommend checking with your financial advisor as individual circumstances are unique.

Submitted by your Stewardship board

Congregational Christmas Caroling

December 10th at 4:00pm

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 4:00pm to break up

into



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

groups and then go out and sing. Also at 6:00pm we will return to the church for dinner and fellowship. Please bring a dessert to share at the meal. **All children must be accompanied by an adult.**

Come and Share the Good News of Christmas!!!

List for Christmas Cards – 2023

1. Rita Stanifer Miller's Merry Manor, 635 Oakhill Ave.,
Plymouth, IN 46563
2. Patsy Schlemmer & Mel 303 East Maple St., Bremen, IN 46506
3. Diana Rodgers 103 N. Center St., Apt. 203, Bremen, 46505
4. Mildred Bollenbacher 1633 W. Grant St., Bremen, IN 46506
5. Bo Weldy Signature Healthcare of Bremen, 316 Woodies Lane, Bremen,
IN 46506
6. Phyllis Brown Autumn Trace Senior Community #110, 2560 W. Lake Ave.,
Plymouth, IN 46563
7. Carol Seegers Golden Living Center, 1001 W. Hively Ave.
Elkhart, IN 46517
8. Leo Sahlhoff Miller's Merry Manor, 1630 S. County Farm Road, Room 9,
Warsaw, IN 46580
9. Harold Nettrour 1584 Miami Road, Bremen, IN 46506
10. Lillian Salyer 24550 Riley Road, North Liberty, IN 46554
11. Bob & Troy Yoder 2824 Michigan Rd., Plymouth, IN 46563
12. Bill & Sharon Latzke 23255 Rebecca Drive, Elkhart, IN 46517
13. Goldie Clark 103 N. Center St., Apt. 202, Bremen, 46505
14. Goldie Buckner 3483 Elm Road, Bremen, IN 46506
15. Martha Miller 621 South Stewart Street, Bremen, IN 46506
16. Wilodene Chaffin 306 East Lincoln Street, Bremen, IN 46506
17. Eunice Bauer 187 Oakmont Drive, Bremen, IN 46506

Just a few brothers and sisters to whom we can send the Joy of Christmas in a card.

PTL Fundraisers

Our next Fundraiser will be popcorn from the Dutch Kernel. If you would like to place an order please call or text Eric Thornton at (574) 248-5007. We will be taking orders until December 6th.

We will pick up the popcorn and have it available to be picked up on Friday December 22nd from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. or after church on Sunday December 24th. You may also contact Eric Thornton at (574) 248-5007 to set up a pickup time.

POPCORN FUNDRAISER ORDER FORM
 Sold in 16 oz bags or 2-gallon tin.

EARN REWARDS
 FUNDRAISING ROCK & STAR
 BUY 10 OR MORE BAGS OF POPCORN

Seller Name: _____
 Teacher: _____ Grade: _____
 Sale Ends: _____ Delivery Date: _____

*Make checks payable to: _____

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
	CHRISTMAS TIN \$45.00	SPECIALTY TIN \$45.00	WHITE CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT \$15.00	SANTA MUNCH \$15.00	CHRISTMAS MEDLEY \$10.00	GRINCH MIX \$10.00	PUPPY CHOW \$15.00	MONSTER COOKIE \$15.00	TURTLE \$15.00	AMISH CRACK \$15.00	CHEDDAR & CARAMEL \$10.00	CARAMEL \$10.00	CHEDDAR \$10.00	BUTTERED \$10.00	CAJUN \$10.00	GARLIC PARMESAN \$10.00	KETTLE CORN \$10.00	CREAMY DILL \$10.00	PIZZA \$10.00	FRUITFETTI \$10.00	TOTAL	Check if Paid
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Christmas Favorites!



CHRISTMAS TIN \$45
 Our exclusive 2 gallon Christmas tin filled with our Fan Favorite Caramel popcorn (This tin does not come with a divider)



SPECIALTY TIN \$45
 Indulge in 2 gallons of our signature mix-Buttered, caramel, and cheddar popcorn (comes with divider)



45% OFF
TIN REFILLS

The Dutch Kernel-Nappanee Shop | 401 E Market St., Nappanee, IN | (260) 499-1614

 <p>3 WHITE CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT Peppermint flavored popcorn. Drizzle with white chocolate and sprinkles of crushed peppermint. \$15</p>	 <p>4 SANTA MUNCH Vanilla flavored popcorn coated with pretzels, M&M's, and white chocolate \$15</p>	 <p>5 CHRISTMAS MEDLEY Vanilla Popcorn, Red, Green, and Pearl. \$10</p>	 <p>6 GRINCH MIX Red Hot and Green Apple \$10</p>	 <p>7 PUPPY CHOW Chocolate peanut butter coated popcorn and tossed in powdered sugar. \$15</p>	 <p>8 MONSTER COOKIE Sweet coated popcorn with granola added for that amazing cookie flavor then drizzled with Peanut butter and topped with M&M's \$15</p>
 <p>9 TURTLE Caramel, Pecans and chocolate drizzled \$15</p>	 <p>10 AMISH CRACK A local favorite! White chocolate covered Caramel popcorn tossed in cinnamon powdered sugar. \$15</p>	 <p>11 CHEDDAR & CARAMEL A unique blend of sweet and salty- our popular Caramel Corn combined with the finest cheddar cheese popcorn! \$10</p>	 <p>12 CARAMEL Our most popular- A sweet, buttery, caramel eating sensation. \$10</p>	 <p>13 CHEDDAR Our finest cheddar cheese popcorn. \$10</p>	 <p>14 BUTTERED Movie theater style, buttered popcorn. \$10</p>
 <p>15 CAJUN Give your taste buds a kick with this zesty treat! \$10</p>	 <p>16 GARLIC PARMESAN An exciting blend of Parmesan cheese with the perfect pinch of garlic seasoning. \$10</p>	 <p>17 KETTLE CORN Lightly sweet, a little salty, perfectly crisp... a delicious American Tradition for over 200 years. (16 Cups) \$10</p>	 <p>18 CREAMY DILL No description is needed- the name says it all. Consuming the entire bag isn't out of the question. \$10</p>	 <p>19 PIZZA Mamma Mia! Grab a slice... we mean... a handful of pizza flavored popcorn, with hints of oregano, the flavor is authentic and crunches just right. \$10</p>	 <p>20 FRUITFETTI Brighten up your day with rainbow fruit-flavored popcorn. Dairy and Gluten Free. \$10</p>

UPDATE ON REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Since the Revitalization Program was started, there has been quite a bit of activity involving the various boards, directors of boards and school staff. Some of these activities are as follows>

* Completion of “Connect to Disciple” workshop by day and preschool school staff, directors of all church boards, Pastor Wonnacott and church and school secretaries. The focus on the workshop was recognizing opportunities in our church, school and communities to create disciples...the mission every Christian has been given by Christ.

* Completion of “Shepherding the Strays” workshop by board of Lay Ministry and Pastor Wonnacott. The focus of this workshop was how to work with church members who have decreased their involvement in attending worship services, Bible studies and church activities in order to assist them in the spiritual walk with Christ.

* Establishment of revised and Vision and Mission statements for St Paul's church and school. These statements are as follows:

VISION

From Strategic Planning Session 9/25/23:

“A Christian family of believers, led by the Holy Spirit, going out into the Bremen community and surrounding areas to make disciples of St. Paul's members and the unchurched.”

MISSION

From Strategic Planning Session 9/25/23:

“Through God's saving grace St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School will equip its families to develop and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ so that they may share his good news of salvation.”

* Establishment of Strategic Plan goals that will be completed by the boards of the congregation. These goals and which board is assigned for completion are as follows:

**GOALS FOR ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL
2023-2024**

1. Get more congregation members participating in school activities (assist with teaching, grading papers, attending sporting events, etc.) 2023-24 school year.

* assigned to School Board

2. Identify how to integrate "outreach ministry" into present community activities (welcome bags to new community members, hospitality meals, Thanksgiving Day meal, "trunk or treat", ice cream social, Oktoberfest booth, Firemen's Festival booth, etc.) by November 2023.

* assigned to Evangelism Board

3. Develop a plan for advertising St. Paul's Church and School to Bremen and surrounding communities by June 2024.

* assigned to Public Relations Board

4. Develop a plan for providing a personal financial literacy class/program to St. Paul's, Bremen and the surrounding communities by March 1, 2024.

* assigned to Stewardship Board

5. Make contact and receive responses from all inactive church members by June 1, 2024 and based on responses, update church membership list by October 1, 2024.

* assigned to Board of Lay Ministry

6. Identify talents and abilities of congregation members to match needs of all church boards by March 31, 2024.

* assigned to Stewardship Board; input required from all boards to Stewardship Board that list the needs of each board. These lists to be provided to Stewardship by November 20, 2023.



Take advantage of God's greatest gift this Advent season! Join us each Sunday morning to unwrap messages from the Bible about Jesus and his presence among us. 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Pre-K – Grade 2 (Nazareth Room)

Check out puppet Theo's "Surprise Box" each week as we learn more about God's love for us. We will hear about God's promises to Abraham, Hagar, and Ishmael...taught by Wendy Coxe.

Grades 3-5 (Mrs. Roger's Classroom)

Hoping for the BEST gift ever this holiday? Find out what it is in "The Hope of Advent" ...taught by Jeanette Rettinger.

Middle School (Grades 6-8) (Mr. Miller's Classroom)

Reading Scriptures together in community provides students with an opportunity to discuss and learn God's Word in an informal setting...taught by Joanna Fox.

High School (Jerusalem Room)

"Christians in a Woke World: A Call to Courage, Confession and Love" is a study analyzing "woke" ideology from a Biblical perspective and reveals God's answer to such challenging times in our society...taught by Andy Wildauer.

Adult Bible Class (Bethany Room)

During December, come study and sing some of your favorite Advent and Christmas hymns. We are sure that everyone will enjoy this special offering...taught by Ken Eichinger.

More Opportunities for Bible Study

New Member Class 2.0

Designed for newly confirmed adults (those confirmed since the pandemic) to study "Lutheranism 101," along with the Catechism. It's also for members who want to delve deeper into the Catechism. We will meet in the Bethany Room on Thursdays at 7 p.m...taught by Pastor Wonnacott.



Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Lively discussions every other Wednesday morning at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria...6:30-7:30 a.m.

Thursday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

Meets every week in the Jerusalem Room, this class will continue the **LifeLight Bible Study: Matthew, Part 1**. Ladies work together as a group to complete each lesson as they study Scripture, answer questions, share and discuss...lead by Barb Middaugh. 9:30-10:45 a.m.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES DECEMBER 24

WRAPPED CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CHILDRENS' TREAT BAGS; SEE NARTHEX BOX.

"Forgetfulness"

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Psalm 103:2

The Indians helped the pilgrims of Plymouth. You know that and I know that.

We also know the pilgrims and the Indians celebrated Thanksgiving together. But the people who work at Plymouth Plantation, a recreation of an English village and Native American home site, say some folks have forgotten that relationship.

One Native American commented, "People will say things that will hurt you."

What kind of things?

- Things like parents telling their children, "If you don't behave, I am going to leave you with this Indian squaw, and she will cook you for dinner."
- Things like a fellow who said, "I thought we killed all of you."
- Things like an adult chaperone who asked, "Where do you get your alcohol?"

People forget. Things happen. History happens, and people forget.

I wonder if the Lord doesn't oftentimes think His people are prone to a mental amnesia that causes us to forget His benevolence and kindness -- things that ought to bring continuous thanksgiving to our hearts.

The Lord gives us 70, 80, 90 years of good health, but we forget those years and accuse Him of not caring when we start to run down. He has blessed and taken care of our nation for many years, but when the economy is not as healthy as we think it ought be, all too often God is accused of having gone on vacation.

Maybe that's why the Psalmist reminds us to bless the Lord and keep remembering all the wonderful things He has done -- physical blessings, most certainly, spiritual blessings, most assuredly.

The Lord who sent His Son to live, die, and rise so we might be rescued from certain damnation wants us to remember and give thanks.

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.

Your congregation and/or school or Sunday school could adopt collecting Luther's catechisms as a mission project. They can be used or new in any edition as long as it is in English. Establish a collection site on your campus and publicize it. You can also purchase catechisms at ebay.com and from used book dealers, such as thriftbooks.com. For more information, contact Joe and Glendora Boway at 260-447-7639 or boway@aol.com. (Article in October Lutheran Witness)

This was discussed at our Christian Board of Education board meeting. 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 will be a container 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!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 2023

ANNIVERSARIES

10	Larry & Beth Enders	28	Brad & Ada Sahlhoff
12	Anthony & Katherine Barts	31	Wayne & Tara Andrews Tony & Melonie Venable

BIRTHDAYS

1	Doug Aurand	24	Traci Pullman
2	Penny Holderman Robb Jones Dorothy Sahlhoff	26	Katherine Goze Matthew Ringle
5	Sara Sahlhoff	27	Patty Bowen Rhonda Owens Ethan Tjernagel
8	Karen Matthew	28	Eric Miller
10	Annette Knepper John Stayton	29	Katie Lynch
13	Kandice Ernspurger Joe Ervin Christie Wonnacott Christina Wright	31	Larry Britt Alexia Cannon Candace Wright
14	Grace Barts Noah Youngman		

15 Tammy Britt

Silent Night,

Holy Night

Mark Cope

16 Anthony Barts
Noelle Cannon

17 Steve Fox

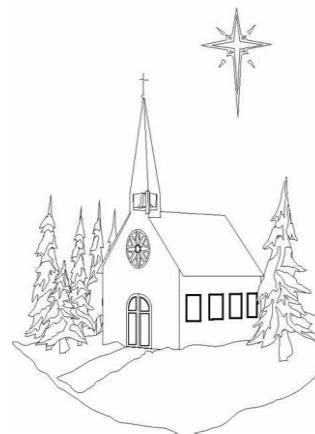
18 Conner Barts

19 Jayden Potoczky
Brittany Sahlhoff
Elaine Young

20 Elijah Kulcsar
Wyatt Wildauer

21 Emiliano Mejia

23 Dawn Schmeltz



*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

St. Paul's Lutheran Women's Missionary League

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. Adopted 2021

LWML Ingathering for FT. WAYNE SEMINARY
Many thanks to all who donated!

Dec. 6, Wednesday, 6:20-6:40 p.m., Bethany
Room, before the Advent service.
Short informational meeting; finalize plans for "Cheer Boxes."

Sunday, December 10: "Cheer Boxes" for home-bound members will be prepared for delivery by our congregation's carolers.
Baked goods appreciated: bring 12 - 15 INDIVIDUALLY-WRAPPED items to the Church kitchen Sunday morning, December 10. Thank you.

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

St. Paul's 178th LITURGICAL YEAR + December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives

✠ Celebration Of Holy Communion

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Midweek / Evening 7:00 p.m.

Dec 3 1st Advent Sunday

Dec 6 1st Advent Wednesday

Dec 10 ✠ 2nd Advent Sunday

Dec 13 2nd Advent Wednesday

Dec 17 3rd Advent Sunday

Dec 20 3rd Advent Wed. Children's Service

Dec 24 ✠ **MORNING** 4th Advent Sunday **9:30 a.m.**

Dec 24 SUNDAYEVENING - Christmas Eve Candle-light Service 7:00 p.m. Dec 25 ✠ MONDAY CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30a.m.

Dec 31 ✠ Feast of the Circumcision & the Name Day of Jesus (no evening service)

December Minor Festivals: 21 St. Thomas, Apostle • *26* St. Stephen, Church's First Martyr • *27* St. John, Evangelist & Apostle • *28* The Holy Innocents, Martyrs of Our Lord •

Commemorations: 4 John of Damascus, Theologian & Hymnwriter • *6* Nicholas of Myra, Pastor • *7* Ambrose of Milan, Pastor & Hymnwriter c. 340-397 • *13* Lucia, Martyr •

17 Daniel The Prophet & The Three Young Men • *19* Adam & Eve • *20* Katharina Von Bora Luther

CHRISMONS: Derived from the words: CHRIS(t) + MON(ogram), they are signs, symbols, or designs, pointing to the name of Christ, His attributes, or His saving work. True Chrismons are GOLD and WHITE, signifying the majesty and purity of our Lord.







NOTE: illustrations are for reference; see the tree for the 'real' thing!



AGNUS DEI: The Lamb of God. Lamb standing w/banner of victory shows Christ's victory over sin and death. Symbol of the risen Lord.



THE OPEN BIBLE: The Word of God which reveals to us the life-giving words and works of Jesus Christ.

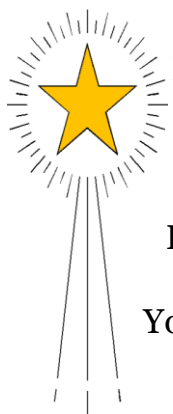
<p>DOVE: A symbol of the Holy Spirit who creates and sustains our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.</p>		<p>The Ten Commandments Signify the Law of God, which shows us our sin and need for a Savior.</p>	
	<p>TRINITY SYMBOLS: There are 4 different geometric figures used to represent the Three-In-One nature of our Triune God. The TRIANGLE is the distinct symbol of the Trinity, often combined with a TREFOIL (clover), TRIQUETRA (arcs) or intertwined CIRCLES; all representing the Unity, Eternity, and Equality of the Godhead. In addition, there is a '3 fish' Trinity symbol which signifies that though only Jesus died on the cross, all Three Persons of the Godhead are active in our salvation. The fish is also an early symbol for Jesus.</p>		
<p>IHS and CROSS: IHS are the first letters from the Greek of the name Jesus. All crosses point to our Lord's atoning work of salvation. Symbol also appears as IHC / IHS in a circle. The circle symbol stands for God, without beginning or end.</p>		<p>CHI RHO w/ ALPHA & OMEGA: X (chi) P (rho) are the 2 letters of the Greek alphabet which form the Chr in English of the name Christ. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. With XP, they signify Jesus is True God.</p>	 <p>AΩ</p>
	<p>THE TAU CROSS (shape of a letter 'T.' From <u>John 3:14,15</u> -- "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."</p>	<p>CROSSES: All crosses point to Jesus' sacrificial death. Alone, it is an emblem of faith. The Latin Cross w/ its longer vertical arm is the most common style used in Western Christendom. Used with the Alpha and Omega it shows the personal union of our Lord -- True God and True Man.</p>	
<p>STARS: Symbol of Divinity. 5-pt star: long visit of the Magi. W/ a rose: represents the rose/ True Man. 8-pt. "Jacob's" 'Star is a of Jacob; A scepter shall rise of Israel."</p>		<p>associated with the Star of Bethlehem and Personal Union of Christ: star/True God & Messianic prophecy: "A star shall come out Numbers 24:17</p>	

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

The Chrismon Tree will be adorned Saturday, December 2. Also, the Church proper and narthex. Anyone wishing to, grade 6 and up, is welcome to help for as long as they wish, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The congregation is invited and encouraged to take a closer look, after services; but altar guild requests please do not touch or handle the Chrismons. Most are over 50 years old, and very fragile. The tree will be removed after Jan. 7, Epiphany Sunday service. Pictures are allowed.

IF YOU LOOK FOR ME AT CHRISTMAS



If you look for Me at Christmas, you won't need a special star; I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me amid the celebrations. You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment from your list of things to do, and listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came. And you'll find Me in the stillness, as I'm whispering your name.

author unknown

