

Address:

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schools@stpaulsbremen.org

Website:

stpaulsbremen.church
facebook.com/stpaulsbremen
vimeo.com/stpaulsbremen

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School: 8:30 am
Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Wonnacott

Office Hours: M, W, TH & F
8:30 – 11:30 am

From Pastor Wonnacott's keyboard:

What do you think about when you hear that March is near? Will it come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? Regardless of the weather and world events, this month is filled with many events and special days for the Christian, culminating in the resurrection of our Lord.

Easter Sunday, March 31st, is life changing and Spirit-driven. For our 7:00 am worship, we'll begin in the Bremen Cemetery and walk to the chapel, which will symbolize us walking to the tomb of Jesus. The stone is rolled away, and the tomb is empty, just like Jesus said it would be!

Our most feared enemy has been defeated by Jesus! That enemy is death. The truth of Easter is that the grave did not hold Jesus, and the grave will not hold us. Death has now become a door that Jesus will open when it is time for the believer to go home. Remember Psalm 23, verse 4: ***"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."*** This is true because Jesus conquered death for us and will always be

with us.

That same morning we'll come back to St. Paul's to have breakfast together as a family, hopefully with some new neighbors (visitors). Then it will be time for all the honor and glory to be given to our resurrected Lord in our Festival Service, filled with praise and hallelujahs!!!

My prayer for us as the family of St. Paul's is that we grow in our faith in our God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - so that we love and serve God, sharing the truth that The Lord is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!!!

Easter Sunday, March 31st

7:00 am Sunrise Service at Bremen Cemetery

8:00 am Breakfast at church in the Bethany Room

9:30 am Easter Festival Service with Communion

THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL EPISTLE IS MARCH 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!

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.

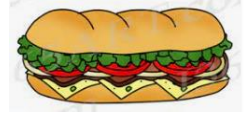
Easter Card List of Some of Our Seniors 2024

1. Rita Stanifer Miller's Merry Manor, 635 Oakhill Ave.
Room 61, Plymouth, IN 46563
2. Patsy Schlemmer & Mel 303 East Maple St., Bremen, IN 46506
3. Diana Rodgers 103 N. Center St., Apt. 203, Bremen, IN 46506
4. Irvin Weldy 316 Woodies Lane, Bremen, IN 46506
5. Goldie Buckner 3483 Elm Road, Bremen, IN 46506
6. Phyllis Brown Autumn Trace Senior Community
Room #110, 2560 West Lake Avenue
Plymouth, IN 46563
7. Carol Seegers Golden Living Center, 1001 W. Hively Ave.,
Room 417
Elkhart, IN 46517
8. Jackie Smith Golden Living Center, 1001 W. Hively Ave.,
Room 418
Elkhart, IN 46517
9. Leo Sahlhoff Miller's Merry Manor, 1630 S. County Farm Road,
Room 9, Warsaw, IN 46580
10. Carol O'Donnell Miller's Merry Manor, 1630 S. County Farm Road,
Room 44, Warsaw, IN 46580
11. Lillian Salyer 24550 Riley Road, North Liberty, IN 46554
12. Harold Nettrour 1584 Miami Road, Bremen, IN, 46506
13. Eunice Bauer 187 Oakmont Drive, Bremen, IN 46506
14. Wilodene Chaffin 306 East Lincoln Street, Bremen, IN 46506
15. Virginia Lynch 8530 North Shore Drive, Bremen, IN 46506

YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES

Recent Events

- **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our Youth through our annual Super Bowl Subs event. A portion of the funds received will be donated to two local organizations, the Bremen Fire Department and the Bremen VFW, while the remaining funds will go toward those Youth and Adult Leaders attending the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering and in support of future mission opportunities. We ask for your continued prayers for our Youth and that the Lord will continue to guide and watch over them.



Upcoming Events

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK IN (April 12th-13th from 7 pm – 7 am):** Plans are underway for our annual Lock In. Originally planned for March 15th-16th, we have to move this to April due to a conflict. More information will be provided in the weeks ahead about signing up, etc.
- **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** The Youth Board is looking to plan various service opportunities on a local level possibly before and after Spring Break, where possible. More information will be published in the weeks ahead.
- **EASTER BREAKFAST (March 31st):** Please join us for Easter Breakfast between services (approximately 8:00 am) as we celebrate in fellowship with one another Christ's victory over the grave. Any and all are welcome!

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

Epistle- School Corner

Please advertise for St. Paul's preschool and day school! The Preschool and Kindergarten Round-Up is scheduled for March 14th, 5:00-7:00pm. Students will get a chance to meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and experience school. We enroll students from Preschool through 8th grade, and word-of-mouth is our most effective form of marketing. If you know of someone interested in St. Paul's, direct them to the school office, 574-546-2790, or schools@stpaulsbremen.org.

Thank you to all who donated items from the Teacher Wish List Tree! The teachers and staff appreciate your generosity!

Remember to give to the Lutheran SGO, and you will receive a tax credit and deduction for your donations! You can find several (easy) ways to donate at www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate, or we also have a link on the church website, stpaulsbremen.church, under the school drop-down_menu. 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.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERIES

St. John Passion

Mar. 6	Lenten Midweek 4:	Whom Do We Follow? John 19:1–16a
Mar. 13	Lenten Midweek 5:	Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross, John 19:16b–27
Mar. 20	Lenten Midweek 6:	Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation, John 19:28–42

Dinner at 6:00 pm Worship at 7:00 pm

Mission of the Month

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

March Mission of the Month: Lutheran Child and Family Services of Indiana/Kentucky

Lutheran Child & Family Services of Indiana/Kentucky, Inc. (LCFS) assist vulnerable youth and families in crisis.

The LCFS is committed to providing compassionate care and counsel to enhance the dignity and quality of life of those in need. Agency programs and services include:

- Youth residential treatment center and education academy
- Family preservation
- Parenting education
- Emergency food and clothing assistance
- The Sharing Place Food Pantry

For more information, go to www.lutheranfamily.org

Preschool Postings

Our students learned even more about Jesus' ministry and miracles last month, leading up to His path to the cross. While teaching the Lenten accounts we always make sure the children know that Jesus didn't stay dead, but rose victorious on Easter Sunday. Along with their other lessons the children enjoyed Stuffed Animal Day, Sock Day, Dr. Seuss' birthday, and Ag Day at Bremen High School.

Pass the word about our "Ready, Set, Go!" Preschool / Kindergarten Round-Up on March 14th from 5-7 pm, where you can meet the teachers and tour the classrooms.

The Evangelism Board

We will be holding another food drive for Grace Food Pantry this month. We will start the drive by placing out cards with specific, requested items on Sunday, March 10th. We will be accepting donations through Sunday, March 24th. Thank you in advance for your support.

On Monday, March 11 starting at 4:30 pm St. Paul's will be packing and delivering Welcome Bags to new households in Bremen. We can use your help! We need volunteers to pack and deliver bags. Please pray with us that bags are delivered safely and that God would bless each family that receives a bag in a special way according to His will! Watch for more ways you can help in upcoming bulletins.

FREE ONLINE CONTENT AT WITNESS.LCMS.ORG

In addition to all the great content that comes to you in the print edition, The Lutheran Witness has even more content online.

Each month, at witness.lcms.org, you can find articles expanding upon and adding to that month's print content, as well as articles by LCMS ministry leaders and continuing series on special topics. In 2024, LW is featuring reflections, from a Lutheran perspective, on classic works of art and literature such as "The Annunciation" by Fra Angelico and "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. You can also read archived topics such as technology, reading the Old Testament and the Lord's Supper.

Visit witness.lcms.org today and get reading! Be sure to subscribe to the monthly LW newsletter to ensure you never miss an article.

EGG-CITING NEWS

The Board of Christian Education will be hosting the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 9:00-10:30. There will be a devotion, singing, a craft, refreshments and of course the Easter Egg Hunt. All children from Preschool through Grade 3 are invited to attend. We are asking for donations of eggs and mini-size candies to fill a 1000 eggs. There is a designated box in the Narthex for the candy and eggs.



It's Time to Spruce Up the Sanctuary!

All men, women, and children (supervised, please) are invited to dust and polish church pews, windowsills, and the sanctuary doors in preparation for Easter. This is an independent project; come when you can and leave when you must. (You can ring the doorbell to gain access during regular church or school office hours.)

Hymnals and Bibles also need to be cleaned and checked for issues.

There is a record-keeping chart and instructions for both projects as well as supplies in a large tote in the cry room. This project starts on February 1st and the goal is to be finished by Saturday, March 23.

Any questions? Please call or text Linda Tinkey, 574-551-5627.

Thank you for your gift of time and energy for this project.

PTL Fundraisers

Thank you to all who participated in our February fundraiser!

Our next fundraiser will be in April. It will be with Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

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.

Spring Quarter Sunday School Classes

YOU ARE IMPORTANT to the St. Paul's family! Get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ as you study God's word together! Your presence means a lot! Join us every week, 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Pre-K – Grade 2 (Nazareth Room)

See what news "Theo" has to share! Children will learn what it means to be "committed to Jesus," bringing "Offerings to Jesus," the "Passion of Christ and His triumphant Resurrection," "Spiritual Gifts," and "Telling Others about Jesus."

. taught by Linday Tinkey

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

Lessons for the month of March focus on events leading to the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

. taught by Jeanette Rettinger

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

Discover several descriptions attributed to Jesus as you study the Gospel of John the Revealed Word, Resurrection and the Life, All-Mighty Miracle Worker, Good Shepherd, and more!

. taught by Barb Middaugh

High School (Jerusalem Room)

As future church leaders, it is important that High School Youth know what God says regarding the roles of men and women in the church. Students are asked to join the Adult Bible Class in the Bethany Room, along with Youth Leader Andy Wildauer. Later in the quarter, students will engage in the video study, "The Family Project," sponsored by Focus on the Family.

Adult Bible Class (Bethany Room)

One of the goals outlined in the Revitalization Program was to resolve areas of tension/conflict that exist in St Paul's congregation. One of those areas are changing St Paul's Constitution and By-Laws to allow women to become voting members of the congregation. Prior to this being placed on an agenda for a future voters meeting, an Adult Bible study "Roles of Men and Women in the Church" will be provided beginning March 3rd during Bible Class each Sunday at 8:30 AM in the Bethany room of the Fellowship Hall. This Bible study will look at how this topic has been discussed in Synodical Conventions and what the Bible scriptures tell us. It is hoped that this Bible study will enable everyone to place their personal desires aside and be prayerfully led by the Holy Spirit in understanding God's plan provided for us as explained in the Holy Bible.

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

Join in on lively discussions every other Wednesday morning at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria! 6:30-7:30 a.m.

Thursday Morning Ladies' Bible Study (Jerusalem Room)

Ladies work together to complete the **LifeLight Bible Study: Matthew, Part 1**.
. . . led by Barb Middaugh, 9:30-10:45
a.m.

“Invisible”

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, He called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” Luke 13:10-12

My first volunteer job in rural Mississippi was as janitor at the small Christian school where my husband taught. I was sure this humble position would teach me true servanthood.

When I visited the school, the teachers always said “hello” and shared stories about the kids. But when I showed up to clean, no one acknowledged me. With a mop in my hand and a scarf on my head, I became invisible. My invisibility opened my eyes to people in my own neighborhood who were “invisible”: A child who wandered the streets without supervision, a man who lived in a shack, an elderly woman with bad feet.

Jesus saw the bent woman, someone who was invisible to many around her. When He healed her, none of the church leaders rejoiced. Instead, they criticized Him for healing on the Sabbath. Jesus sees us all, daughters and sons of Abraham, with an eye especially on the poor, the crippled, the imprisoned. His eye sees me, no matter how invisible I am to those around me. Through His redeeming love, I see the invisible people in my neighborhood.

Prayer: Keep my eyes ever on You, LORD, for only You can release my feet from the snare. Amen.

Response: Pray that God will help open your eyes and heart to someone invisible.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March 2024

ANNIVERSARIES

21	Steve & Michelle Potoczky	30	Eric & Kelly Thornton
		31	Terry & Janet Miller

BIRTHDAYS

1	Jacob Miller		
4	Allyson Lynch Abby Wildauer	25	Barbara Berg Michelle Pittman
6	Wyatt Napper Avery Wildauer	26	Debra Burcham Ellen Fox
7	Edward Coffel	27	Deana Miller Austin Nielsen
11	Scott Schmitt	28	Arick Cannon Taylor Lizzi Jack Wildauer
12	DeAnn Napper Sharon Sahlhoff		
14	Danielle Ernspurger Luke Wonnacott Pastor Neil Wonnacott	29	Beth Enders Thomas Slavey Melanie Venable
15	Nicole Bailey	30	June Hamman Brandon Sahlhoff
17	Jason Bailey Colton Napper	31	Madison Youngman
18	Edward Nielsen Jon Rettinger		
19	Avery Cannon		
20	Curtis Thornton		
21	Mark Matejka		
23	Shirley Guse Jasmine Polson Carol Seegers		
24	Chad Goze Steven Moran Khendra Shepherd		



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: APRIL 8, at 7:00 PM, in the Bethany Room
 Speaker: Joe Boway of Liberian Childrens Ministry
 OPEN TO THE CONGREGATION - GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME!
 Refreshments will be served afterward.

The Eyeglasses & Eyedroppers ministry for M.O.S.T. is ongoing. Any type, in good condition is needed. Please place in the box beneath the "Bulletin Table." Thank you.

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

St. Paul's 178th LITURGICAL YEAR † March 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives

 Celebration Of Holy Communion

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Midweek 7:00 p.m.

Mar 3 3rd Sunday in Lent
Mar 10 4th Sunday in Lent
Mar 17 5th Sunday in Lent

Mar 6 4th Lenten Wednesday
Mar 13 5th Lenten Wednesday
Mar 20 6th Lenten Wednesday

Mar 24 Palm Sunday 6th Sun. in Lent
 Sunday of The Passion

Mar 28 Maundy Thursday



Mar 29 Good Friday

March 31



**FESTIVAL of THE RESURRECTION
 of OUR LORD - Easter Sunday**

March Minor Festivals: 25 The Annunciation Of Our Lord • Commemorations: 7 Perpetua & Felicitas, Martyrs • 17 Patrick, Missionary to Ireland • 19 St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus • 31 Joseph, Patriarch (son of Jacob)

On the Church Year Calendar, Easter is seven weeks long, and its season concludes with The Feast of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost.

Christmas to Pentecost is called the Festival Half Year; because during this portion of the calendar all the major festivals of the church which focus on Christ's work of redemption and salvation - or on specific events of His earthly life - are observed:

Christmastide: Nativity: Jesus' Incarnation, birth; **Name Day / Circumcision:** Jesus, as announced by Gabriel to Mary, and repeated to Joseph / keeping of the Law of Circumcision 8 days after birth; **Epiphany Day** & season: manifestation to the Gentiles in the visit of the wise men; **Baptism of Our Lord:** God the Father proclaims Jesus as His Son; Jesus places Himself under the law so that His atonement will be sufficient for all people **Presentation of Our Lord:** keeping of the Law of the purification for Mary; witness of Simeon and Anna of Jesus as the promised Messiah; **Transfiguration of Our Lord:**

Jesus manifests His glory as God's Son; **LENTENTIDE: Ash Wednesday**: time of sorrow over sin and repentance, both individually and corporately, begins, as we walk to Calvary with our Lord; **Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion**: entry into Jerusalem / beginning of Holy Week, where we observe Jesus' Passion - His suffering and death, especially the crucifixion; **Maundy Thursday**: historical institution of Christ's gift of the Lord's Supper; with the communion of all saints, we are strengthened in our faith, receive the forgiveness of sins, as we proclaim His death till He comes. **Good Friday**: anniversary of Jesus' death on the cross; we witness our Lord's suffering and yet, we can rejoice that in Him the price of our sins are fully paid. It is finished! **Eastertide: Resurrection Sunday (Easter)**: seal of our salvation, promise of our bodily resurrection; **Ascension of Our Lord**: Jesus return to heaven; His eternal reign as King and Lord of all; promise of His return to take all believers to heaven; **Pentecost**: the gift of the power of the Holy Spirit to the church to fulfill the Great Commission; serve our Lord and neighbor till He comes. The last three listed are considered the three most significant observances of the church year; and all occur within Eastertide's fifty-day season. With each annual cycle of festivals, every believer has the opportunity to 'walk with Jesus' as He walked among us during His life on earth. This was the motivation for forming a calendar of 'anniversary day' observances during the 4th century when most of the calendar took shape. Since AD 600, this Festival Half Cycle has remained essentially unchanged.

The Lord's death and resurrection is at the heart of Christian faith and worship. The days are prefaced as 'feasts' from the pattern God set down to the children of Israel: *"These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times."* Leviticus 23:4 In the celebration of these days, we display to the world the truth of our God and Savior through Jesus' atoning sacrifice, love for all people, and the sure and certain hope that we hold for our own resurrection and eternal life. We are invited by Jesus Himself to "feed" our worship life and faith through God's Word, the Holy Spirit, and in His gift of the Sacrament; all the while remembering and praising Him as God and Lord; proclaiming to all His great works on our behalf; and rejoicing in His unending love as He renews and strengthens our life and faith in Jesus Christ.

***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away,
reserved in heaven for you..."*** 1 Peter 1:3,4

ALLELUIA! THE LORD IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!