

From Pastor Wonnacott's keyboard:

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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

Pastor Neil Wonnacott

Office Hours: M, W, TH & F

8:30 – 11:30 am

“Signs, signs, everywhere a sign.” Some of you may remember that hit song from so long ago. As I travel down the highways of this life I see lots of signs. When we travel to Michigan there are so many Pure Michigan signs, but even more signs that have something to do with marijuana. We hear about “signs of the times” and wonder what the world is coming to, what kind of life are people striving toward?

Every now and then you see a bumper sticker like “Trucking for Jesus” or “Jesus Saves” or “Jesus is my Copilot.” For us who know and believe in Jesus these signs may seem great, but what about the unbeliever? What are they thinking? We have to be concerned about those who don't know Jesus and need to hear His loving message of forgiveness.

We as Christians are supposed to be “signs” that are displayed in our communities and world. We know the truth and are set apart to be witnesses in our homes, communities, workplaces and playgrounds.

In 1 Peter 3:14-16, we see whatever the situation, we are to bear witness:

¹⁴ “But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. ¹⁵ But in

your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks

you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” NIV

Our purpose in life to be a “sign” to the world, proclaiming that Jesus is Lord, the resurrected Savior who has come to save the world. What does your sign say?

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY EPISTLE IS APRIL 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.

Euchre Party is Friday, April 12th from 7-9:00 pm in the Bethany Room. Anyone 16 and older can join us for fun and fellowship, and please bring a snack to share. Beverages will be provided. Come and bring a friend!

We praise God for all who participated in our Lenten meals and midweek services, and for your generous donations of food for Grace Food Pantry. We are extremely grateful that we raised \$781.78 for catechisms for the Liberian Children’s Ministry. Finally, thank you for all the special music from our choirs during Lent and Easter. The Lord is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! With a thankful heart, Pastor Wonnacott.

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 25th – 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.

YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES

Upcoming Events

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK IN (April 12th-13th from 7 pm – 7 am):** Those Youth planning to attend the Lock In are encouraged to invite friends; just confirm with a member of the Youth Board first. Parents of all attendees must sign a waiver that will be available at drop off. We look forward to an evening/morning of fun, fellowship, food, and more.
- **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** April is National Volunteer Month and the Youth Board is planning various service events throughout the month (weather permitting). We are setting aside the following dates (with events and more information to be finalized and communicated soon):
 - **Sunday, April 14th:** Youth in Grades 4-8 – Event TBD

- **Sunday, April 21st:** Youth in Grades 8-High School - Bremen Community Ctr
- **Sunday, April 28th:** Youth in Grades 8-High School – Event TBD

Miscellaneous

- **Youth Group Communication Channel:** As a parent, you can be added to our GroupMe text chat for the St. Paul's Youth Group (Grades 4 through High School) to be kept up to date on upcoming activities, service events, quick communications, etc. If interested, please contact Andy Wildauer.

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

Epistle- School Corner

We are NOW ENROLLING for Preschool through 8th Grade, 2024-25! Send your students to a Christian school, where Biblical values and the Christian faith is encouraged and taught. St. Paul's is a Choice school, offering a comprehensive scholarship program to make a Christian education affordable. Visit our website, www.stpaulsbremen.church/school or phone [574-546-2790](tel:574-546-2790), and discover what we have to offer! We are always ready to answer questions and provide tours.

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.

Mission of the Month

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

April Mission of the Month: LCMS World Relief and Human Care

Christ's mandate and example of love — the Gospel for the whole person — is the supreme example for our life in this world as we care for our neighbor in body and soul.

Some specific LCMS mercy ministries are Disaster Response, Life Ministry, Health Ministry, Deaconess Ministry, Specialized Pastoral Ministry (chaplains), and Soldiers and Veterans of the Cross.

For information on these works of mercy, go to: <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy>

Virtual Book Fair

A virtual book fair is coming to our church and school by Northwestern Publishing House! This format is a perfect companion to an in-person book fair. You can shop on-line anywhere! All books included in the book fair receive a 20% discount. The dates for the Northwestern Publishing House bookfair is April 26, 2024 to May 13, 2024. If you wish to see the books, you will need to go to the website, nph.net/virtualbookfair. You will need to use a Promo Code for the fair which is V159C1019118.

Once you log onto the website and put in the promo code you can begin browsing on-line descriptions virtually. The book fair lists the following categories: Spring Books/Confirmation including the "Lutheran Book of Prayer; Defending Your Faith-Apologetics; Family Life-- addressing family issues and enriching children and spouses; Books for children; Books for Women: The Lutheran Reformation, focusing on Martin Luther and the Reformation; Devotional: Uplifting believers of all ages for devotions and prayer: Comparing Religions: Give readers insight in other beliefs and better prepare you to share their own faith; NPH Best Sellers: this features NPH's best selling books.

How to purchase Books. Once you have logged into the Book Fair click on the book image and tap/click the Add to Cart button. Tap/Click View cart and checkout when finished shopping. Use the church's/school Promo Code, to receive 20% off each book from the book

fair categories. Tap/Click Proceed to Checkout. Complete the checkout process by entering your shipping address and payment information. Tap/Click Place Order.

Preschool Postings

Our students are so happy for the warmer weather so they can play outside and observe the changes in the plants and animals. We can't wait to go on nature walks to find flowers, insects, birds, and more! Last month the students met another group of letter people, learned about dinosaurs, and painted shamrocks. They also played mini golf, pin the tail on the donkey, and "who has the shamrock?"

We've been learning about Jesus' ministry after He rose from the dead, and how He equipped His disciples to share the Good News. We're looking forward to some field trips and more science experiments this month. We still have openings for next year so please spread the word!

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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)

Topics for April include "Jesus' Appearance to Mary Magdalene," "Samson, the Champion," "Samson's Sins and God's Mercy," and "Ruth's Faith."

The month of May follows with two parables of Jesus – "The Good Samaritan" and "The Unforgiving Servant." Other topics include "Pentecost" and "Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant."

. 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)

David Burcham and Pastor Wonnacott will lead a study entitled, "Roles of Men and Women in the Church." This Bible study will look at how this topic has been discussed in Synodical conventions and what the Bible scriptures tell us.

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.



"GETTING OUT OF IT"

[Then the religious leaders] began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this Man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a king." And Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And He answered him, "You have said so." Then Pilate said ... "I find no guilt in this Man." But they were urgent ... And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. (Luke 23:2b-5a, 7)

It's clear that Pilate wants nothing to do with Jesus' case. He does a brief examination, and when the religious leaders won't stop yammering, Pilate finds another dodge. He ships Jesus off to King Herod on the grounds that He is a Galilean. Maybe Herod will take care of the problem for him.

You might recognize this game from your workplace—or your community, or even your church. "It's not my problem, someone else can deal with it."

What a good thing that God does not take the same attitude with us! When we are in deep trouble, He pays attention. He involves Himself. He focuses His wisdom and concern on us, and He stretches out His hand to pull us out.

That's what Jesus was doing that very day as He stood before Pilate. He was God in the flesh, getting involved, pulling His people out of the power of sin, death, and the devil. Nobody else could help us, but Jesus could. His suffering, death, and resurrection would remake our world and redeem us to be free, blessed, living children of God.

THE PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for making us Your problem. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

- * What is a problem you have tried to get out of handling, big or small? Did it work?
- * Why would you choose to handle a problem rather than sloughing it off on someone else?
- * By analogy, what does God's choice say about His character and attitude toward us?

Lenten Devotions were written by Dr. Kari Vo.

Today's Bible Readings: [Deuteronomy 30-31](#) [Luke 8:1-25](#)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 2024

ANNIVERSARIES

5	Joe & Tara Beasley	20	Bruce & Ellen Augustine
11	Keith & Lucinda Russell	23	John & Karen Matthew

BIRTHDAYS

1	Regina Brown	19	Donna Gordon
3	Ardith Ahlemeyer	20	Peggy Swanson Brantley Thornton
4	Wayne Andrews	21	Tara Beasley Scott Hundt
6	Cory Miller Evelyn Miller	23	Remington Leslie Jessica Rogers
7	W. Dean Sherk Linda Smith	25	Maximiliano Mejia Andrew Miller Katie Stanifer
8	Kelly Thornton	26	Michael Gordon
10	Joshua Miller	28	Kaia Podlin
12	Tristan Hicks	30	Rebecca Rogers
13	Payton Dobbins Thelma Quesenberry Brittany Riffle		
15	Karli Miller		
16	Jeremy Hicks Sarah Sarber		
18	Brian Denk Gavin Hundt		



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*

DATE CHANGE: LWML, Monday, **APRIL 22**, 7:00 PM, in the Bethany Room

Speaker: Joe Boway of Liberian Childrens Ministry.

Joe works with & helps equip over 1500 schools, attended by over 6000
students, in the African nation of Liberia.

OPEN TO THE CONGREGATION - GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME!

There will be a freewill offering for school supplies, or bring a catechism for
the students of Liberia. 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 † **April 1, 2024 – April 30, 2024**

Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives  *Celebration Of Holy Communion*

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

April 7 2nd Easter Sunday **April 21** 4th Easter Sunday

April 14  3rd Easter Sunday **April 28**  5th Easter Sunday

April Minor Festivals: 25 St. Mark, Evangelist a.k.a. John Mark - Fellow worker with Paul,
Barnabas, & Peter • *Commemorations:* 6 Lucas Cranach & Abrecht Dürer, Artists • 20
Johann Bugenhagen, Pastor • 21 Anselm Of Canterbury, Theologian • 24
Johann Walter, Kantor •

Church Year CALENDAR: the Easter Season is seven weeks long, and it concludes with The
Feast of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost. Δ The Easter BANNER: Hail Thou Prince of Life. The
Title is from Acts 3:15, *"But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a
murderer to be granted to you, and killed the prince of life, whom God raised from the
dead..."* Δ Like the Lenten Banner, the LILY is seen, as a symbol of new life, springing up
after 'dying.' Though true of any perennial, the trumpet lily has become the 'traditional
flower' of Easter: for the bloom's white color, representing Christ's purity and glory; for the

blossom's distinctive bell, as bells symbolize the proclamation of the Gospel; and for its fragrance. The symbolism of a 'sweet aroma,' a 'pleasing offering,' is first mentioned when Noah built an altar after The Flood. Genesis 8:20,21 This phrase is repeated about 40 times in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, speaking of burnt offerings to the LORD. Δ In the New Testament, believers are called a fragrance and aroma: *"For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death to death, and to the other the aroma of life to life."* II Corinthians 2:15,16 So, too, is Christ and His sacrifice: *"And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."* Ephesians 5:2 And Paul thanks fellow Christians for their gifts to him, saying these make a sweet aroma before God. *Philippians 4:18* Δ The top symbol is a sunburst over a crown, reflecting the discovery of the women that Jesus, our Prince of Peace, had risen, early in the morning, before the day began to dawn.

What are 'LITURGICAL COLORS?' The Liturgy of the Church is the *order of public services*. Liturgical colors, therefore, are the ones used by the church for public services. ❖ In giving Moses the pattern for the Tabernacle, God listed specific items and colors: gold, silver, bronze; blue, purple and scarlet thread; fine linen, red ram's skins; acacia wood. *Exodus 25:3,4* God also compares His love and care for Israel as having "clothed" her in fine linen, silk, embroidered cloth; and "adorning" her in jewels, silver and gold. *Ezekiel 16:10, 13* Just so, the church now "clothes" her altars in linen, silk, and embroidered cloth; and "adorns" His house with appointments of gold, silver, brass and bronze; "as a bride adorned for her husband." *Revelation 21:2* ❖ During the 6th century, congregations added colors and fabrics to their houses of worship based on local meanings and customs. In the 16th century, the Church at Rome, assigned certain colors for particular seasons and feast days; standardization occurred in the 1800's. As a rule, the Lutheran Church follows this "Roman usage:" white; black; red; violet; and green. These colors draw their significance from usages found in the Bible. ❖ **WHITE:** symbol of purity, 65 times; 'fine linen,' denoting a pure, white fabric, 29 times. Over half refer to Jesus or His garments; to angel's garments; to saints, either their robes being made clean, or being worthy to walk with Jesus; to priestly robes; and even to the color of the throne of God. Used for all Festivals to the Trinity, God the Father, and God the Son; for saints not martyred; for confessors and doctors of the Church. The only alternate color for a festival of God the Son is **gold;** used

only on Easter Sunday. ❖ **BLACK**: 15 times as a color; 23 passages use ‘dark’ to refer to the absence of light, or the place of the dead. Therefore, by association, black represents death, mourning, sorrow, affliction, sin, and evil. It is used on Good Friday, The Festival of the Anniversary Day of the Death of Our Lord; sometimes on Ash Wednesday. ❖ **RED**: (besides the Sea) 25 times; scarlet, 49 times; and crimson, 5 times. Twenty-eight refer to blood, sin, sacrifice, or the tabernacle; 7 to garments; and 3 to wine. Red, associated with fire and blood, is the ‘color’ of the Holy Spirit, and of martyrs. *Scarlet*, connected to sacrifice, is an alternate color of Passion Sunday. Used on The Feast of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost; martyrs saint’s days; Mission Sundays, and Confirmation, as only by the Holy Spirit can we have saving faith and proclaim Jesus. ❖ **PURPLE**: 53 times, with 30 to the Tabernacle / Temple; 16 to kingly robes / wealth. Jesus was presented to the crowd wearing a purple robe. Used for Advent and Lent as we examine our hearts (repent) and prepare to meet our King. True purple appears black at a distance, so the actual color used is **VIOLET**. A contemporary alternative for Advent is *blue*, appearing 48 times, 43 connected to the Tabernacle / Temple curtains, coverings when moving sacred items of the Tabernacle; to priestly garments; four to royal robes / wealth; the last time is to the ‘hyacinth blue’ breastplate of one of four horses. Revelation 9 ❖ **GREEN**: 38 times, always in reference to living, growing things. Representing spiritual life and growth, it is the “color” of the Weeks after Pentecost, as we apply the words and works of Christ through the life-giving power of the Gospel to grow in our faith.



“Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!” I Chron. 16:29b

ALLELUIA!	He Is Risen Indeed!
The Lord Is Risen!	ALLELUIA!