

From Pastor Wonnacott's keyboard:

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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

Just one more month, and school is out for the summer! May will be full of activity. On May 2nd we'll have our National Day of Prayer Service, and the very next night we have our school musical "Tell Me the Truth," with even more happening before the show. May 8th is our Ascension Eve service, at which we worship our Lord who ascends to prepare a place for us.

We celebrate Pentecost on May 19th, which is also 8th grade Confirmation. In this service we will witness the work of the Holy Spirit in the faith of our confirmands; what a blessed day! The week that follows is the last of this school year. May 21st is our Preschool Closing Program. May 22nd is the graduation of our 8th graders and our Kindergarteners. Our theme for our school year has been "Connected to Jesus", based on John 15:5. *"Jesus said: I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."* It has been my pleasure and honor to lead the chapel services for the day school and preschool, as we come to God's house to learn about Jesus.

As a pastor it has been awesome to witness the children growing in their faith, and then putting what they learn into practice. Through our school we are blessed to see the next generation grow in their connection to Jesus. We have seen it in their participation in our worship services on Sundays and Wednesdays. These children are the future of

our church.

How are we going to prepare for this busy month? By being connected to Jesus through His Word and Sacraments, and enjoying the fellowship we have as a family in Christ.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EPISTLE IS MAY 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!

On May 5th Pastor Wonnacott will be installed as our Pastor. At the April 21st Voters' Meeting it was decided to no longer have the Administrative Pastor and Assistant Pastor positions. At the Call Meeting immediately following, it was decided by vote to call Pastor Wonnacott to be our sole pastor, and he accepted the call.

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.

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Ascension Eve Service is May 8th at 7:00 pm

Euchre Party is Friday, May 10th 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!

Potluck Breakfast is May 5th at 8:00 am. Please bring your favorite breakfast items and meet in the fellowship hall for a time of fellowship, then stay for Bible Class and Sunday School. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend with you.

The Hospitality Group will be cooking on May 8th at 9:00 am in the church kitchen. Please come and help to make meals for shut-ins of our community. This is a great way to serve your neighbor!

YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES

Recent Events

- **EASTER BREAKFAST (March 31st):** We had several Youth and Youth Board members and other adults pitch in and help set up and prepare the Easter breakfast this year. As usual and despite any messes in the kitchen (what Easter Breakfast would be complete without a burnt pancake or something spilled?), the Youth pulled this off and served a wonderful breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fruit, and drinks on a blessed Easter morning. To God be the glory – He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK IN (April 12th-13th):** Ten of Youth (and several very brave adults) participated in annual MS Lock In joining in various games they chose, exciting art projects (Thank You Mrs. Miller!), activities in the gym, and of course, food and snacks throughout. We wrapped up in the early morning hours with breakfast and a devotion focused on our theme this year, “Service”(based on 1 Peter 4:10- in recognition of National Volunteer Month and God has called us all to serve others, with Jesus Christ as our lead example. Thank you our parent volunteers who sacrificed a few hours of their sleep to keep a watchful eye on the Youth throughout the night and morning. (Before and after pictures on the right, demonstrating all of the smiles and alertness Friday evening turning to sleepy eyes by 7 am Saturday morning).



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Upcoming Events

- **HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH OUTING (May 5th):** The Youth Board is offering to take our HS Youth to lunch on Sunday, May 5th following the church service. This will simply be an opportunity to gather together in fellowship and enjoy time with one another. We are asking HS Youth to contribute \$5 while the Youth Board will offset remaining costs for the lunch. Please indicate interest by speaking with Andy Wildauer or any member of the Youth Board.
- **SUMMER EVENTS:**
 - **Every Word for Bremen** (June 3rd-7th): Volunteer opportunity to read the Bible to the Bremen community
 - **Sand Volleyball** (June 5th @ 7 pm): Join at Sunnyside Park for some outdoor fun
 - **Youth Soda / Water Table @ the Fireman’s Festival** (June 11th-15th): More information to come on volunteer options for coverage

- Planning is in the works for other activities and dates throughout the summer....

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

Epistle- School Corner

Mark your calendars for the School Musical- “Tell Me the Truth” - May 3rd, 7:00pm, in the school gym! Welcome back to the 70s with this groovy game show, featuring unusual contestants, radical prizes, and more! Doors open at 6:15pm to enjoy pre-show music and an art exhibition from the students at St. Paul’s.

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, 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.

May Mission of the Month: Camp Lutherhaven

Camp Lutherhaven is celebrating 75 years!

From their website:

Each summer Lutherhaven picks a theme that guides our spiritual growth times. For summer 2024 our theme is WILDFIRE!

Based on Psalm 78:4, "...tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD." 75 years ago the spark of telling the "glorious deeds" of God was ignited at Camp Lutherhaven.

Camp Lutherhaven started as a small spark, but that small spark of God's message spread like wildfire! Today Lutherhaven burns brightly with God's love. Yes, "it only takes a spark to get a fire going!" Likewise, it only takes God's spark to set His people and the world on fire for Jesus!

This summer Lutherhaven continues the legacy of fanning God's wildfire of love to the next generation.

To read about Camp Lutherhaven's 75th Anniversary Celebrations go to www.lutherhaven.org.

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

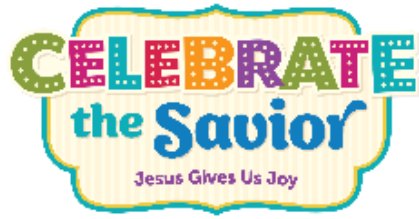
The school year is coming to an end, and you can sense the excitement in the children- they sure don't want to be cooped up inside! We're finishing up the Letter People, trying out different art methods, and hearing about the witnessing done by the disciples who were empowered by the Holy Spirit. The students learned that Jesus gave all of us the same job- to tell everyone of His love and forgiveness. We pray that the children and their families stay close to Jesus over the summer, and we look forward to seeing them and many new students in August!

PTL Fundraiser



The school students will once again be selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts or gift certificates as a fundraiser for the PTL. You can see any student to place an order. The doughnuts and certificates are \$15.00 per dozen this year. The deadline to place an order is May 8th. We will pick up the doughnuts and certificates and have them available to be picked up on either Friday May 17th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or on Sunday May 18th after church.

You may also contact Eric Thornton at (574) 248-5007 to place an order or schedule a pick up time.

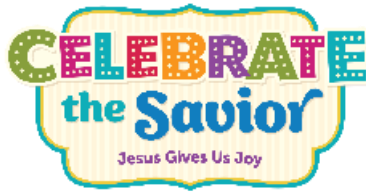


Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 24th-28th from 9-11:30 am. **Celebrate the Savior-** *Jesus Gives Us Joy* is the theme for this year's VBS program. The children will look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and discover that Jesus gives us the joy of eternal life with Him! Our loving God has given us so much to celebrate—family, friends, food, and especially forgiveness through faith in Jesus, our Savior. As kids explore five key events in the life of Jesus, they will discover how the love of Jesus fills us with joy. Activities at VBS will include Bible Lessons, games, snacks, crafts, science demonstrations and songs. On Friday at the conclusion of VBS, all children and their families, plus all volunteers, are invited to a celebration luncheon which will include games and a brief closing program.

Registration is open for children age 3 through those currently in 5th grade. Enroll your child today! Complete the registration form and return to church. There is a box located on a table at the back of the Narthex. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this year's VBS program.

The Board of Christian Education is working on recruiting adult and youth volunteers to assist with this year's VBS program. If you are willing and able to help this year, contact Jeanette Rettinger, Barb Middaugh or Wendy Coxey. The LWML will also be sponsoring a VBS craft night on June 3rd at 7 pm. It has been a great help in the past, so please plan to join us that evening.

Please pray for our program as we minister to children with the saving message of Jesus!



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

VBS Registration Form

June 24th -28th @ 9-11:30 AM

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade just finished _____

Home Church (if applicable): _____

Food Allergies: _____

Medical Issues or Special Needs: _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Name of alternate person picking up child: _____

Alternate person's phone: _____

Additional Information concerning your child: _____

Medical Release: I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

Permission to Attend: I give permission for my child to attend Vacation Bible School.

Parent Signature

Date

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
605 S. Center St.
Bremen, IN 46506
(574) 546-2332

Join Us for Summer Sunday School!

Be refreshed in God's Word!

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

We are excited to introduce a brand new curriculum from "Answers in Genesis" for children of all ages! Through Scripture, videos, and activities students will discover the true history of the world and the Gospel message. Along the way, they'll learn that science confirms the Bible, God's Word is true, Jesus offers salvation to sinners, and so much more!

Grades Pre-K through Grade 2 "Mrs. C & Me: Journey Through the 7 C's of History" led by Wendy Coxey in the Nazareth Room

Grades 3-7 "Bible Investigators: The 7 C's of History"
. led by Jeanette Rettinger in Mrs. Roger's Room

New Confirmands and High School Join the Adult Bible Class in the Bethany Room.

Adult Bible Class Watch for more information! Meet in the Bethany Room.

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 7:00 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.

"The Baby Not The Bathwater"

. . . *(The LORD God said) "Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Genesis 3:11b-13*

Amy Ullock had decided to get a tattoo on her arm.

It was to be a beautiful tattoo -- literally. Ullock wanted the word "Beautiful" tattooed on

her arm. The tattoo artist typed the word into his computer, got a sample copy of it, showed the copy to Amy, traced it on her arm, and tattooed away.

Only when he was done, Ullock noticed the word Beautiful was written "Beatiful."

Ullock was upset; the tattoo artist was upset and, naturally, there was a fight. It was a fight that eventually took both of them to a Nova Scotia small claims court.

Ullock blamed the artist; the artist blamed Ullock.

Eventually, the judge ruled Ullock couldn't blame anybody other than herself for the mistake. It was her fault if she didn't catch the error before it became permanent.

People do like to blame others for their errors, don't they? Look at Adam and Eve. After God had confronted them about their eating from the forbidden tree, Eve blamed the snake for tempting her.

And Adam? Adam took the blame game to another level. First, he tried to pass the guilt to Eve, but he also implied God Himself was at fault, maintaining to Him that the woman *You* gave me, *she's* the one who is responsible.

Over the centuries the Lord has heard countless souls make countless excuses. So predictable are we in excusing ourselves that Jesus says on Judgment Day the lost are going to try and justify themselves by saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help You?" (Matthew 25:44)

We just don't like to admit we are at fault, do we?

That's sad because the Great Physician really can't do much for those who think they're healthy and whole. You remember Jesus' parable. It was the tax collector, who confessed, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner," and then went home forgiven" (Luke 18:13b).

Of course, John said it better than I ever could. He wrote, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us" (1 John 1:9-10).

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 2024

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Matt & Jennifer Podlin	25	Kurt & Shirley Guse
9	Bruce & Deb Schmidt	26	Matthew & Erin Sarber
13	Efrain & Rebecca Mejia	27	Jim & Melonia Russell
16	Robert & Troy Yoder		
	Cliff and Sandie Schooler		

BIRTHDAYS

1	Roberta Meiring	24	Tori Ernsperger Parker Holt
3	Barbara Shell	26	Owen Bickel Kenneth Knigga
4	Eric Knepper	27	Janet Kaiser Riley Schmidt
5	Alexis Andrews Katherine Barts	28	Heath Hicks Jack Stanifer
7	Victoria Orr	30	Linda Coffel Matthew Sarber
9	Heidi Wildauer Grace Winterboer		
10	Alejandra Slavey Eric Thornton Michele Wolff		
11	Jace Bailey Patsy Schlemmer		
13	Wanda Felton Mark Sahlhoff Donald Schoning		
14	Ellen Tjernagel		
15	Emily Diaz John Matthew		
18	Mary Urban		
19	Jamielynn (Tinkey) Flores Ava Mejia		
21	Larry Enders		
22	Laura Stayton		



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

Saturday, May 11: LWML SOUTH BEND ZONE SPRING GATHERING, at Our Redeemer, South Bend. Program: Friendship Tea; 2:00-4:00 pm.

Bring your favorite teacup or one will be provided there. Info on Ingathering for Convention items to bring is on the Check-It-Out Board. All ladies are invited.

June 20-23, 2024: LWML Indiana District Convention, at Danville, Indiana, Hendricks Co. 4-H Conference Center - "Rooted in Christ" Eph. 3:17.

Registration & Housing information is on the website.

Monday, June 3, 7:00 pm: VBS Work Nite. Anyone with willing hands is welcome to come. Light 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 + May 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024

Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

☐ Celebration Of Holy Communion
Midweek time as noted

May 5 6th Easter Sunday

May 2 National Day of Prayer

May 8 ASCENSION EVE 7:00 PM

May 12 ☐ ☐ 7th Easter Sunday

May 19 Pentecost Sunday & Jr Confirmation

May 26 ☐ ☐ Trinity Sunday 1st Sunday after Pentecost

May Minor Festivals: 1 St. Philip & St. James (the Less), Apostles ● 31 The Visitation ●

Commemorations: 2 Athanasius of Alexandria, Pastor & Confessor ● 4

Friedrich Conrad Dietrich "Fritz" Wyneken, Pastor & Missionary ● 5 Frederick the Wise,

Christian Ruler ● 7 *Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm* C.F.W. Walther ● 9 Job ● 11 Cyril &

Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs ● 21 Emperor Constantine, Christian Ruler &

Helena, Mother of Constantine ● 24 Esther ● 25 Bede The Venerable ●

The Easter Season and Festival Half of The Church Year comes to a close with Pentecost, and we begin the non-festival half; a Time to grow in understanding in the

Word to daily live out our faith. We can also gain knowledge about other things related to Church. ● “Church” is from the Greek term *ecclesia*. In its purest sense it only applies to the “*assembly of people*.” But most use it for the physical place of worship. ● How much do you know about our building's sacred (set apart) space, and traditions or customs of our liturgy? Let's try a few questions about “church.”

1. How ‘old’ is the church? How ‘old’ is St. Paul's? Isn't that the same question?
2. Why use a crucifix? Since we preach Jesus is risen, why show Him on the cross?
3. Where are the chancel; nave; narthex; sacristy? What is their purpose?
4. Why does the baptismal font have eight sides?
5. Where do the titles of liturgy sections and responses (Kyrie e.g.) come from.
6. Why do we stand for The Gospel reading? Why do we bow before communion?
7. Why does the pastor talk “to us” or “turn his back to us” at times?
8. What's motion does the pastor make during prayers and benedictions?
9. Is there a purpose or ‘Biblical’ basis for the symbols used, or are they just art?
10. Why do we stand for the last verse of some hymns?
11. Is there any particular reason we have three aisles?

● The design of a building identifies its purpose and its assembly's focus. For instance, the building of many Orthodox Catholic assemblies is generally round, or octagonal. Circles symbolize God (eternal, without beginning or end); eight is the number of regeneration (Noah, water of baptism). ● #1. Because the “Church” is the assembly of believers, all saints, past, present, and future, she has existed since God gave Adam and Eve the promise of a Savior. St. Paul's officially became a congregation on Oct. 14, 1846. Her first Liturgical Year began Advent, 1846. She will be 178, this coming Oct. 14. God willing. Her 179th Liturgical Year will begin Dec. 1, 2024. ● Look around the ‘church proper’ (before or after, not during the service, please). What does the “design” say about Lutheran worship? ● Answers for #2,9. A brief history of the cross as a Christian symbol. [*Crosses of Many Cultures; Designs for Applique* by Joyce Mori.] ● Other peoples in history have used cross designs: Aztecs, Phoenicians, Hindus (a reverse swastika), and American Indian. In Roman times, it was the instrument of the most terrible form of execution. It was so associated with criminals that early Christians had a hard time explaining how God allowed such an end for His

own Son. A drawing c. 134, mocks Christians using a crucified figure with a donkey's head. ● Plus, open displays of a cross could lead to persecution. After Constantine made Christianity "legal," that changed. The Council of Nicea, 325, made the cross the "official symbol" of Christianity. Constantine added it to his scepter, to coins, and the domes of basilicas. ● Jewish Christians disparaged the use of human images, so the first crosses, while very ornate, usually had the figure of a lamb to symbolize Christ. During the 6th century, an artist replaced the lamb with a human-like figure. In 691, the change became official; a realistic figure of Christ appeared in the 10th century. The pope condemned it as blasphemy then, but during the Counter-Reformation, 16th century, the crucifix (a cross with the body of Christ) became the symbol of Roman Catholicism. ● Some early churches inlaid the cross on the floor. Decried unacceptable at the Second Ecumenical Council, most churches still follow this rule. A painted or carved cross on the inside wall showed the building was under the dominion of Christ. ● (#8) Making the sign of the cross identifies oneself as Christian; began c. 110. Wearing neck crosses began 6th century. Many bishops, c. 800, encouraged it as a way to emphasize one was "pious." ● Lutherans traditionally have retained the use of an altar crucifix, as a reminder of Christ's atonement. ● St. Paul's crosses: Calvary - altar crucifix w/3 steps; Latin: lectern, paraments, window, stoles; Celtic (Latin w/circle): doors, pew ends, processional cross; Greek (4 equal arms): font, windows, altar linen & Chrismons; Patee (Greek w/wide arms, narrow center): wine tray lid; Passion (Latin w/4 pointed arms): Good Friday banner; Tau (letter T shape): Chrismon. All crosses signify Jesus' atoning sacrifice. More next month.

"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2

