And this is the testimony,
that God gave us eternal life,
and this life is in His Son.
Whoever has the Son has life;
whoever does not have
the Son of God
does not have life.

1 John 5:11-12

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

7th Sunday of Easter......May 12, 2024

The Seventh (and final) Sunday of Easter holds a unique position in the salvation story, as it is the only Sunday in the ten-day window after the ascension but before Pentecost. This reality is reflected as every year the Church reads the account of Matthias succeeding Judas (*First Reading*, Acts 1:12–26), which did indeed immediately follow the ascension (Acts 1:6–11) and did immediately precede Pentecost (Acts 2).

Let us go forth together as witnesses!

The Lord's Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. If you are not partaking of the Lord's Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US.

Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in the narthex of the church.

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use, located just outside the sanctuary.

Only Jesus. "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). The apostles have forever borne witness. "That which we have seen with our eyes, beheld, heard with our hears, touched with our hands, this we bear witness to you, that you might have fellowship with us, and have joy and life eternal" (1 John 1:1–4). Only Jesus. Tell us not to, ridicule us, slander us, beat us, imprison us, pass laws against Jesus, do what you will, we *must* speak of what we have seen and heard. Only Jesus. How does God accomplish this salvation? Only through a cross. "The Son of Man must be glorified." It was obtained by the cross, and it's delivered through lowly means (water, bread, wine, sinful people. "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). And that is our *only* mission. It's the *only* reason we exist, and the world continues to exist. Only Jesus.

[~] Excerpts from 175th Anniversary sermon by Pastor Matthew Harrison -LCMS President ~

Opening Hymn 912 "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy P Spirit. (Matthew 28:19b)
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

(Hebrews 10:22)

- Our help is in the name of the Lord, \mathbf{P}
- who made heaven and earth. C (Psalm 124:8)
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. \mathbf{C} (Psalm 32:5)
- O almighty God, merciful Father, \mathbf{P}
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins C and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called P and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)
- G Amen.

Introit

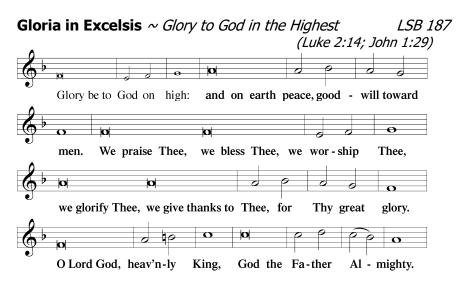
+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Psalm 27:1a, 4-5, 10, 14; antiphon: v. 7

- Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; P
- be gracious to me and answer me! C
- The LORD is my light and my salvation; P
- whom shall I fear? \mathbf{C}
- One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: P

- that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.
- P For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;
- He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.
- P For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
- **©** but the LORD will take me in.
- **P** Wait for the LORD;
- **be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**
- All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
- **•** be gracious to me and answer me!







Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



First Reading Acts 1:12–26

¹²Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it';

and

"Let another take his office."

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when He was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to His resurrection." ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two You have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

- P Christ has risen from the dead.
- **G** God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.
- P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
- He has put all things under His feet.

Epistle 1 John 5:9–15

⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that He has borne concerning His Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning His Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Alleluia LSB 190



Holy Gospel

John 17:11b-19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.



Jesus said: "Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which you have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You have given Me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they

may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn 696 "O God, My Faithful God"

Sermon Text 1 John 5:9-15

Sermon "The Greater Testimony"

Because the Father Has Given Us His Testimony in His Son, We Testify to the Life We Have in Christ by the Spirit.

- 1. The Father has given us His testimony _____
- 2. This testimony ______ .
- 3. We testify to this new life in Christ ______.

Hymn 839 "O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

Prayers

Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Preface LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

. (2 Timothy 4:22)



P Lift up your hearts.

(Colossians 3:1)



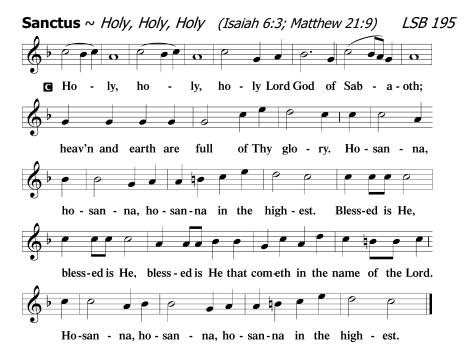
P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

(Psalm 136)



(Meet means fitting, proper.)

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



The Words of Our Lord

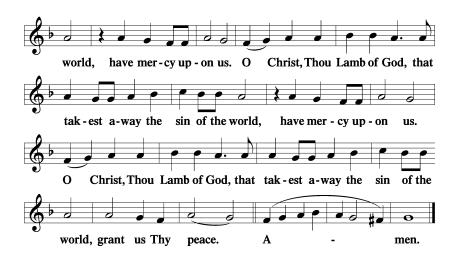
(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

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

■ The peace of the Lord be with you always.





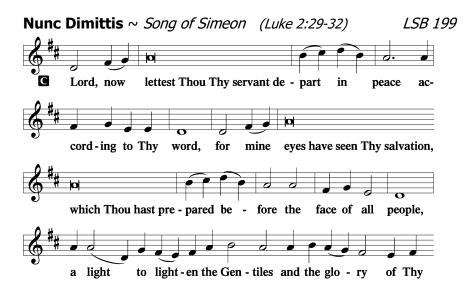


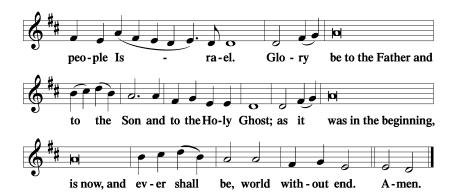
Hymn 623 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

Hymn 629 "What Is This Bread"

Hymn 634 "The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord"

Hymn 622 "Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

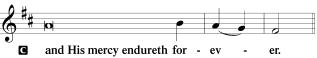




Thanksgiving (Psalm 107:1)

LSB 200

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



P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)

LSB 201



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

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.



Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



Closing Hymn 840 "Christ High-Ascended, Now in Glory Seated"

Acknowledgments

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CHRISTIAN MEN - AWAKE!

If you're at least 18 years of age, wake up on Wednesday morning every other week and join in a Bible Study at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria conference room at 6:30 AM. Enter the cafeteria area entrance on the south side patio to the left of the main entrance portico (presently the covid testing drive-thru). The cafeteria has an excellent breakfast menu and we enjoy our study with discussion and fellowship until 7:30 A.M. Bible study is a means of strengthening our understanding of God's plan for us and strengthening our faith, which we all can use in the daily challenges we face. Bring your Bible and join us as we study, eat and fellowship! The dates we will meet in 2024 are as follows: 5/15. 5/29, 6/12, 6/26, 7/10, 7/24, 8/7, 8/21, 9/4. 9/18, 10/2. 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27, 12/11

If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.

Our VBS program Celebrate the Savior-Jesus Gives Us Joy will be held June 24th -28th from 9-11:30 am. All children age 3 through those who are just completing Grade 5 are encouraged to attend. Kids will explore five key events in the life of Jesus and discover how the love of Jesus fills us with joy. This is a community event sponsored by our congregation. Registration forms may be found on the table in the narthex. Children can also be registered online at vbsmate.com/StPaulsLutheranBremenIndiana. There is also a sign-up sheet for volunteers. A letter went home with St. Paul's students in grades 6-8. Adults and high school youth can sign the list if you would like to help with VBS. Then we will talk with you about volunteer opportunities.

Please mark your calendar to come help with the LWML worknight for VBS on June 3rd at 7:00 pm in the Bethany Room. Join us for fellowship and fun as we help prepare to bring the message of Jesus to the children of our community. Refreshments will be provided.

Calendar of Events

TODAY ~ Mother's Day ~May 12th, 2024
Sunday School & Bible Classes
Worship Service with Communion
MON:
TUES:
WED:
Men's Bible Study Breakfast
Day School Chapel
THURS:
Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study9:30 am
8 th Grade Public School Confirmation
2nd Thursday Bible Study6:00 pm
New Member Class 2.07:00 pm
FRI:
Day School Field Day @ Jane's Park9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Preschool Chapel
SAT:
NEXT SUNDAYMay 19th, 2024
Sunday School & Bible Classes
Worship Service ~ Confirmation Sunday
Adult Basketball

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage! This is a great hymn with only one very powerful verse (LSB 582). Among other things, we sing about keeping His Word pure from generation to generation. However, God's Word being our great heritage is also an historical truth. The Lutheran Witness has a series on the history of the church from the time of the apostles through the 20th century. "As the Body of Christ, our history transcends time, country, and citizenship." If you want to learn more about the history of the fellowship of believers *Una Sancta (One Holy)*, go to witness.lcms.org/series While there, you will find other series, like Christian Art, The Lord's Supper, Our problems; God's Answers, etc. that might pique your interest as well.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The "Every Word for Bremen" organization is looking for volunteers to read the Bible to the Bremen community in early June. To begin planning, the window to volunteer is now open. If interested in learning more, please speak with Avery Wildauer (Bremen HS student advocate) or Pastor Wonnacott. Additional details below:

"Join us at the pavilion in downtown Bremen as we publicly read the Bible together from Genesis to Revelation"

Dates: June 3-7, 2024 Times: 7:00 am - 10:00 pm

Website (Register Now): everywordforbremen.com

YOUTH NEWS

SUMMER EVENTS: With summer break almost here, the Youth Board is busy planning various activities for our Youth (Grades 6 through High School) to stay engaged. Keep at least the following dates on your calendar:

June 5th (7 pm): Sand volleyball @ Sunnyside Park
June 11th-15th (Evenings): Soda/Water Table at the Bremen
Fireman's Festival

June 16th (8:30 am): Donuts with Dads Devotion for Father's Day

And more to come in July...

Look for more information in the weeks ahead on these and other events. Contact Andy Wildauer with any questions.

A tall, pink Munchkin sippy cup_was found in the nursery last week. If you have been looking high and low for this cup, it is now residing in the church office. Please see Janet Miller or an elder to get it for you.

Do you know about Lutheran Hour Ministries? They do Christian outreach like The Lutheran Hour for TV, printed Christian Material, internet and music in association with LCMS and LWML. You can listen to The Lutheran hour! Find your local station at hhm.org/lutheranhour. National outlets include SiriusXM Sundays at 10 AM ET (Family Talk Channel 131), iHeartRadio/Spotify/Apple/Google (Podcast on demand) and Classic Broadcasts at hhm.org/sentradio. Share this info with all your family, friends and neighbors.

Flowers that adorn the altar. If you have a special event, someone you'd like to remember or simply want to show your love and praise for the Lord by putting flowers on the altar, please consider signing up on the flower chart in the Narthex by the Altar Guild room. There are many open Sundays in June, July, August, and September. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

SCHOOL CORNER

We have 8 days of school left (who's counting), and what busy days they are!

The students finished out last week with lots of field trips. The 5th and 6th grade students went to a South Bend Cubs Game on May 8th, as a reward for completing DARE. Kindergarten through 5th grade visited Potato Creek State Park on May 9th. The 6th- 8th grades had fun at Strikes and Spares on May 10th. The next field trip is for Kindergarten through 3rd Grade to Potawatomi Zoo, May 20th.

Field Event Day will be May 17th, at Jane's Park. We are looking for volunteers to help with field events, etc. Please let the school office know if you would like to volunteer. Free water is available, but all students and volunteers will need to bring their own lunch.

Other dates on the calendar include the 5th/6th Grade Band Concert May 16th, 7:00pm, BPS; the 7th/8th and HS Band Concert May 18th, 7:00pm, BPS; Confirmation May 19th; Preschool Closing Program May 21st, 6:00pm; and Kindergarten and 8th Grade Graduation May 22nd, 7:00pm.

The Bremen Firemen Festival is <u>June 11-15th</u>, and PTL will be looking for volunteers to run the ticket booths. Please let the school office know if you are available to volunteer. Sign-ups will be going around soon.

It is not too late to enroll in St. Paul's Preschool and Day School (Kindergarten through 8th Grade)! If you know of any families looking for a Christian educational experience, please recommend us. Word-of-mouth is the best advertisement. Our mission is to provide a solid education, with a Christian foundation and atmosphere for Preschool through 8th Grade. We also offer a comprehensive scholarship program. Online enrollment and inquiries are open on our website, stpaulsbremen.church/school. Interested families can also call the school, 574-546-2790, or email schools@stpaulsbremen.org. We are happy to answer questions and schedule tours.

Two new students- Colton Sutter (4th grade) and Leslie Sutter (6th grade)- are highlighted on the bulletin board!

Please continue giving to the Lutheran SGO! Our goal is to make a Christian education affordable, so please continue to give, and receive the tax credit and deduction for your donations! Now, there is a link to donate to the LSGO on the church's website under the School dropdown menu.

You can also 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. Please contact Jennifer Harman, in the school office, if you have questions.

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

Servants for Today's Worship May 12th, 2024

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

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Todd Haug & Eric Thornton Acolytes: Reuben & Colton Napper

Elder: Bill Rogers

Communion Assistant: Terry Miller Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship May 19th, 2024

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

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Mark Matejka & Dakota Schmeltz

Acolyte: Rachel Rogers

Elder: Larry Britt

Video Streamer: Ethan Tjernagel



Mothers are a blessing from God and some of our younger Youth would like to share their thoughts about their Moms.



What is a favorite activity that just you and your Mom get to do together? A spa day or shopping at Target. – Josie, 5th Grade

Going for a walk. - Maddi, 5th Grade

Drawing together. - Colton, 4th Grade

Going to a special breakfast on my birthday. – Wyatt, 4th Grade

Art. - Zane, 4th Grade

What is some good advice that your Mom has given you?

Don't give up (and don't be "Nosey Josie"). - Josie

Be nice to those who are mean, - Maddi

Pick <u>up_your</u> dirty clothes. – Colton

Be kind and respectful. – Wyatt

Eat your dinner. - Zane

What is one thing you admire most about your Mom?

She is always multitasking and doing things. - Josie

How nice and beautiful she is. - Maddi

She loves our dogs. - Colton

She is always encouraging me. - Wyatt

Her artistic talent, - Zane