

*You did not choose Me,
but I chose you.*



*“This is My commandment,
that you love one another as
I have loved you.*

*Greater love has no one than
this, that someone lay down
his life for his friends.*

*You are My friends if you do
what I command you.”*

John 15:12-14

*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
605 South Center Street
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In today's *Gospel*, from the middle of Jesus' farewell message to His disciples (Jn 13:31-17:26), our Lord emphasizes love: His Father's love to Him, His love for His disciples, and His disciples' love for one another. And His sacrifice is the greatest love.
Let us love as Jesus loves us.

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.

Love wins in Jesus. Fix your eyes on Jesus, His love for you. **Abide in His love.** Keep yourself in the stream of His forgiveness. Realize what a wretched mess your life really is, and how utterly failed your attempts at love have been. Receive the tokens of His love, His death and life, His body and blood, His Word and Spirit. All this without any merit or worthiness on your part. Jesus said, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide." (*John 15:16*) You are ever a child of God. But when the fruit of Jesus' love, when agape appears, when you love one another with Jesus' love for you, you are seen for who and what you really are. A disciple and friend of Jesus. Chosen in love to abide in His love and to love one another.

~ excerpt from sermon from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church-LCMS, Hacienda Heights, CA ~

Opening Hymn 829 "Christ the Eternal Lord"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 66:1-2, 8-9, 20; antiphon: v. 16

P Come and hear, all you who fear God,

C **and I will tell what He has done for my soul.**

P Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

C **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

P Bless our God, O peoples;

C **let the sound of His praise be heard,**

P who has kept our soul among the living

C and has not let our feet slip.

P Blessèd be God,

C because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!

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 Come and hear, all you who fear God,

C and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

Kyrie ~ Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

LSB 154

(Luke 2:14; John 1:29)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



First Reading

Acts 10:34–48

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him. ³⁶As for the word that He sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. ⁴²And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one appointed by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

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

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

Epistle

1 John 5:1–8

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of Him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that testify on earth: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree as one.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse *(John 6:68)*

LSB 156

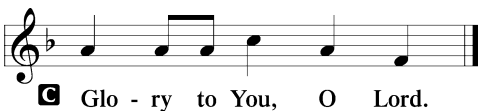


C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 15:9–17

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁹Jesus said: "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 556 "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" vs. 1-4

There will be a special voters’ meeting today, May 5th, immediately after the worship service to vote to offer a full time teaching position to Heidi Wildauer for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Napper

Calendar of Events

TODAY	May 5th, 2024
Potluck Breakfast	8:00 am
Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service.....	9:30 am
Scrip Day	
Adult Basketball.....	2:00-4:00 pm Adult Basketball
MON:	
PTL Meeting	6:00 pm
TUES:	
Pastor Wonnacott at Northern Indiana Pastor’s Conference in Valpo	
WED:	
Pastor Wonnacott at Northern Indiana Pastor’s Conference in Valpo	
Prepare Hospitality Meals	9:00 am
Day School Chapel	11:00 am
Ascension Eve Worship Service	7:00 pm
THURS:	
Preschool Chapel	9:30 am
Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study	9:30 am
8 th Grade Public School Confirmation	5:00 pm
2nd Thursday Bible Study.....	6:00 pm
New Member Class 2.0.....	7:00 pm
FRI:	
Euchre Party.....	7:00 pm
SAT:	
NEXT SUNDAY ~ Mother’s Day ~	May 12th, 2024
Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service with Communion.....	9:30 am

Tammy Britt would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. My recovery is going well and I am up and on the move again.

Tammy Britt would also like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for her step-brother Fred Garrett. He is in remission and continues to improve.

The Hospitality Crew will be preparing their next meal this Wednesday, May 8th at 9:00 am. We are in need of the following donations: boneless chicken or pork and fresh asparagus. We will also take any other fresh vegetables that we can steam or roast if you'd rather bring those instead. Any and all donations are a blessing and greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please see Sandie Schooler or Beth Enders. Thank you for your support and generosity. You continue to bless us so that we can bless others.

LWML South Bend Zone Spring Gathering: Saturday, May 11, 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.

Last Week for the Virtual Book Fair!

Our virtual book fair, hosted by Northwestern Publishing House ends May 13, 2024. If you wish to see the books, you need to go to the website, nph.net/virtualbookfair. You will then be able to browse the books with some of these categories: Confirmation, Defending Your Faith, Books for Children and Women, Devotional, and Family Life. After you click on the book image and tap/click the cart button. Tap/click view cart and check out when finished. Use the church's Promo Code, V159C1019118 to receive 20% off of each book purchased. Tap/click and proceed to checkout. Complete the checkout by entering your shipping address and payment information. Tap/click place order.
Enjoy shopping!

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.

Special Concerns:

That by the Gospel we grow in obedient love for God and love for one another and thus bear abiding fruit.

For Pastor Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores and Pastor Micah Wildauer and their work in foreign missions.

That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.

For our country and her leaders.

For the people of Haiti - That the Lord would surround our brothers and sisters in Christ with His grace and protection. Pray they stay strong in the faith through their suffering at this time of violence and unrest.

We pray for all Christians suffering from trials and persecutions in this world. That their light would so shine before men to glorify Jesus.

The St. Paul's PTL board is happy to announce our new candidates for the board positions of Vice-President and Treasurer! Becca Mejia will be our Vice-President and Kelly Thornton will be our Treasurer for the next 2-year term beginning in July. We thank the board members and parents who continue to support and work with our PTL! Special thanks to Shirley Guse who has served our board as our Treasurer for 4 years! It is never too late to join PTL, so if you are interested leting more involved and planning school events and activities, come to our PTL meetings. Our next meeting is May 6th at 6:00 pm, in the Jerusalem Room by the preschool classrooms.

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. Information will be going home with the preschool and Day school children soon. Students in grades 6-8 will be given information about volunteer opportunities. Registration forms may be found on the table in the narthex. Children can also be registered online at vbsmate.com/StPaulsLutheranBremenIndiana.

The school students will once again be selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts as a fundraiser for the PTL. You can see any student to place an order. This year we will be offering a gift certificate option as well. ***If you would like a gift certificate please contact Eric Thornton.*** The doughnuts are \$15.00 per dozen and the gift certificate is \$15.00. 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 19th after church. You may also contact Eric Thornton to place an order or schedule a pick up time.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

"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

LUNCH OUTING + SERVICE EVENT: Because we had to postpone our Service Event last Sunday, we have rescheduled that for early this afternoon following our lunch outing. Due to the change in plans, these combined events will now be for Youth in Grade 8 through High School. We will plan to leave from church shortly after the Voters Meeting that follows the service (approximately 11:15 am), will go to lunch and then the service event. We are asking Youth to contribute \$5 while the Youth Board will offset remaining costs for lunch. Please plan accordingly for working outside as well (weather permitting).

SCHOOL CORNER

Thank you to all who assisted with or provided props for the musical! The students did a great job and it was lots of fun! Thank you, parents, for committing your students to extra practices and helping them with lines! **PTL, thank you for providing refreshments!**

We also want to thank Beth Miller for organizing the art exhibit and Heidi Wildauer for organizing pre-show music, and thank the students who provided the music and art!

We have many field trips coming up! The 5th and 6th grade students will go to a South Bend Cubs Game on May 8th, as a reward for completing DARE. Kindergarten through 5th grade will be visiting Potato

Creek State Park on May 9th. The 6th- 8th grades will be having fun at Strikes and Spares on May 10th.

Field 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.

We are happy to report that we have been steadily enrolling students for 2024-25, but it is not too late to enroll! 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!

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 drop-down 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 5th, 2024

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

Organist: Ellen Augustine

Liturgist: Pastor Roger Rhode

Ushers: Joe Hughes & Mark Matejka

Acolyte: Jessica Rogers

Elder: Mike Gumz

Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship May 12th, 2024

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

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Todd Haug & Eric Thornton

Acolyte: Reuben & Colton Napper

Elder: Bill Rogers

Communion Assistant: Terry Miller

Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt