

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

15th Sunday After Pentecost......September 1st, 2024

The Pharisees and scribes had gathered to Jesus when they witnessed His disciples eating with defiled, unwashed hands. This contradicted the tradition of the elders. They questioned Jesus for allowing His disciples to do this. Jesus called them hypocrites. This "heart" of the Pharisees and scribes, and really of all mankind, Jesus speaks to specifically in our Gospel text today. We welcome everyone to God's house today!

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.

The Armor of God – Ephesians 6:10-12 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (God has the might for us to live the holy life) ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (We need the armor because Satan is alive and active in deception) ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Satan is the enemy pretending to be our friend, he wants us in eternity with him, he wages a spiritual battle to destroy us – we CANNOT fight him on our own).

Don't fail to use the power of God!

Opening Hymn 566 "By Grace I'm Saved"

(Ephesians 2:4-9; Titus 3:4-7; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:23-24)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19b)
- 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)

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **©** who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** (Psalm 32:5)
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins 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.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called 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.

→ SERVICE OF THE WORD →

Introit

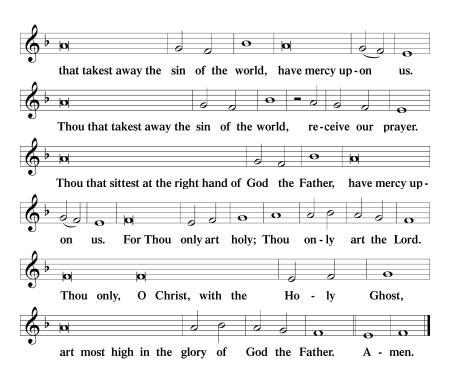
Psalm 51:7,10-12; antiphon: v. 2

- Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
- and cleanse me from my sin!
- Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
- wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- P Create in me a clean heart, O God,
- and renew a right spirit within me.

- P Cast me not away from Your presence,
- and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
- P Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
- and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- 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 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
- and cleanse me from my sin!







Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



P Let us pray.

O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Old Testament Lesson

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the just decrees that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is

giving you. 2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. . . .

⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' ⁷For what great nation is there that has a God so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon Him? ⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

⁹ Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children."

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

Gradual Psalm 34:9, 19

- P Fear the LORD, you His saints,
- for those who fear Him lack nothing!
- Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
- **•** but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

The Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth

boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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



The Holy Gospel Lesson

Mark 7:14-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.



¹⁴Jesus called the people to Him again and said to them, "Hear Me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." ¹⁷And when He had entered the house and left the people, His disciples asked Him about the parable. ¹⁸And He said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus He declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And He said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

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 703 "How Can I Thank You, Lord" (Colossians 1:12-14; Psalm 107:20-22; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 1:6)

Sermon Text Mark 7:14-23

Sermon	"A Defiled Heart Made Clean"	
1. Every heart is by nature defiled and yields		
2. However, God creates new, clean hearts in us through Christ by		
His		
3. Then, w	ith our newly created hearts, we bear fruit by the strength	

Hymn 422 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" (Romans 8:29; 2 Peter 1:4; Ephesians 4:24; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

Prayers

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

LSB 179

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



Installation of Sunday School, Bible Class, & LifeLight Leaders

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

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.



Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

LSB 202

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 924 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" (Numbers 6:24-26; John 8:31; Philippians 1:21)

Acknowledgments

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Parish Fellowship is looking to add extra freezer space in the

kitchen. If anyone has a small, working upright or chest freezer they are no longer in need of or feels moved to donate one, please contact Wayne Spicher at 574-607-5234 or the church office 574-546-2332.

Thursday Morning Bible Class. Thursday Morning Women's Bible Class will begin this Thursday, September 5th at 9:30 am. We will be studying the LifeLight Program, Matthew Part 2. If you are interested, please contact Barb Middaugh so a booklet can be given to you. Come and join in studying God's Word.

Calendar of Events

TODAY	September 1st, 2024		
Sunday School & Bible Classes	8:30 am		
Worship Service	9:30 am		
Scrip Day			
MON: ~ Labor Day ~			
TUES:			
WED:			
Men's Breakfast Bible Study	6:30 am		
Day School Chapel			
THURS:			
Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study	9:30 am		
FRI:			
Preschool Chapel	9:30 am		
SAT:			
NEXT SUNDAY	. September 8th, 2024		
Potluck Breakfast	8:00 am		
Sunday School & Bible Classes	8:30 am		
Worship Service with Communion	9:30 am		
Constitution Revision Q&A	After Service		
Food Pantry Ingathering Begins			
Bell Choir Practice	5:00 pm		
Adult Choir Practice			

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: 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.

We are having a potluck breakfast next Sunday at 8:00 am. Bring your favorite dish and come enjoy good food and fellowship for your physical body then stay for Bible Class to fill up your spiritual body.

Our next ingathering for Grace Food Pantry will begin next Sunday, September 8th through September 22nd. There will be "cards" on the table with items most needed for the pantry. Please feel free to take one or more cards or to simply donate whatever you can. Prayers are always a blessing too. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need.

It's time again to consider ringing or singing with one of our choirs or both. Bell choir and adult choirs will begin rehearsal next Sunday, September 8th. Bells from 5:00-6:00 and adult choir 6:00-7:00 - both in the balcony. If you are planning to join us for bells, please let Ellen Augustine know as she needs to mark the music according to the number of players. Those interested in adult choir - just show up. We need new members, so please consider joining us. Contact Ellen Augustine 574-536-4648 (call/text) with questions or to confirm.

LifeLight is just around the corner. Please consider joining us as we study Matthew Part II – chapters 13-28. Don't be concerned if you were not able to join us for Part I because this study does not build upon Part I but simply continues diving into the Gospel of Matthew. Please prayerfully consider enriching your faith in and bond with our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, during these nine Wednesdays beginning September 11th through November 6th from 6:45 pm-8:15 pm. Registration sheets are available by the offering box in the Narthex.

Wednesday, September 11th at 9:00 am: The Hospitality Crew will be preparing meals for those in need. This month we are in need of Yukon gold or red potatoes, boxes of jello – any flavor and cans of fruit for the jello. Also, cookies, dessert breads, small cakes (9x13 or smaller), or any other goodies for treats to pack with the meals. Cash donations to purchase items are always welcome. Please mark the envelope "Hospitality Meals" and place it in the offering box. Volunteers to help prepare the meals are greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do.

Mother / Daughter Fun Night is September 12th at 7pm in the Bethany Room. Come to enjoy Bingo with family and friends. We'll also provide delicious refreshments! Please bring three wrapped white elephant gifts. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex so we can plan accordingly, or call the church office. Bring a friend or family member, or just bring yourself on September 12th!

Cliff Schooler would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards. He is feeling much better. Praise be to the Lord.

Joann Wonnacott would like to thank the church members for all their love, cards, and prayers.

Shirley Lakins would like to thank everyone for their payers for her daughter Cheryl's surgery. It went well and she is recovering nicely.

Special Concerns:

We confess our hearts produce nothing but evil, but by the Gospel God creates in us new, clean hearts that desire to keep His commandments.

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 Lord's continued grace and protection of our Haitian brothers and sisters during this time of violence and unrest and for all persecuted Christians throughout the world..

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: Sign up this month for our September 27-29 Lutheran Marriage Encounter at the Calvary Lutheran Church, Plymouth, IN!!

NOW IS THE TIME to register for this opportunity to rekindle the romance and realize the full potential of your marriage, with all the joy & beauty God intended.

For info and registration, check out www.GodLovesMarriage.org
This church-based retreat will run on Friday evening, Saturday all day and Sunday afternoon (Program resumes after worship services with lunch) It is open to married couples of all denominations. Weekend cost is \$75/ couple, which covers the program, Sat lunch and dinner, Sun lunch and ongoing support. Contact: Brian & Annika Piazza 574-780-9240 or abpiazza@vahoo.com

One of the items listed as a task to do from the Revitalization Program with the Indiana District was to review the Constitution and By-Laws for possible changes.

A committee was formed to undertake this review and make recommendations to the voting members of St. Paul's for approval. On Sunday, Sept. 8th, immediately after worship service, a meeting will be held in the Bethany Room that is open to all members of the congregation. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee will present and discuss possible revisions being considered thus far. This is NOT a Voters' meeting, but it IS intended to provide you an opportunity to hear about the revisions being worked on and obtain your input. Please plan on attending this meeting if possible.

A special Ladies of the LWML Indiana District Choir will be recording for Worship Anew on October 8th. Please see the "Check-It-Out" board for more information if you are interested in joining this choir opportunity.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) --- LCEF is a valued ministry partner for all LCMS congregations which provides financing for church construction & expansion projects. Currently, LCEF is experiencing an increased demand from congregations for building projects and they are asking church members to consider investing to give them the needed resources to fulfill the demand. **If you would like additional information there are brochures in the tract rack** in the Narthex or online at LCEF.org/offers.

YOUTH NEWS

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Youth at the Car Wash last Saturday. We were blessed with a wonderful weather day and washed plenty of cars - all funds received will go toward offsetting costs for our Youth and Adult Leaders to attend the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

FALL YOUTH NIGHTS: This year we will be holding our Fall Youth Nights throughout September on **Sundays from 6-7 pm, beginning September 8th**. This is for all Youth in Grades 4 - HS as each evening we will have an activity and finish with a brief devotion and snack. Please join us and bring a friend along for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Look for more information via our "St. Paul's Youth" GroupMe chat or contact a member of the Youth Board.

SCHOOL CORNER

The Annual PTL Rummage Sale is this Saturday, September 7th from 8:00am-2:00pm! The PTL is collecting items for the rummage sale now until September 6th. Please bring your items (no large furniture) to the school gym. (See insert for more details.) If you would like to volunteer, contact Jennifer Harman or Heidi Wildauer.

Please continue to keep staff and students in your prayers. We have 55 students in the day school (an increase from last year) and 15 in the preschool.

We are still looking for help in our Extended Care Program-hours and days may vary. This is a part-time position, requiring a background check. If you are interested, please contact Nathan Miller or Jennifer Harman. We are also always thankful to have volunteers to read with and assist the students! (Also requires a background check.)

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 September 1st, 2024

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

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Wayne Spicher & Todd Haug

Acolyte: Colton Napper Elder: Terry Miller

Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship September 8th, 2024

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

Organist: Ellen Augustine

Ushers: Dakota Schmeltz & Jim Mitchell

Acolyte: Abby & Josie Wildauer

Elder: Dave Burcham

Communion Assistant: Jon Rettinger Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt

The Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-17

All the pieces of the armor are attached to God's Word

- **v. 14 The Belt of Truth:** the belt protects the midsection. This enables us to discern and recognize Satan's lies. The waist is the "bread basket". The truth of God's Word enables us to discern that the bread Satan offers is a lie Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:35).
- **v. 14 The Breastplate of Righteousness:** the breastplate protects the heart. The first thing Satan wants to do is make us doubt our relationship with God. We are protected with the blood of Jesus Christ and the certainty that if we repent, we are forgiven children of God.
- **v. 15 The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace:** shoes provide a solid foundation. Through Christ, we have firm footing to move forward. We trust in Christ's work, not burdened by the past but forgiven so we can live for Him in the days ahead.
- v. 16 The Shield of Faith: the shield blocks the temptations that Satan sends our way it totally protects us. We are in a constant spiritual battle. Satan tries to use all things to our detriment. He always tries to bring up things that cause us to doubt. Use the shield of faith to quench his fiery arrows.
- **v. 17 The Helmet of Salvation:** the helmet protects the head. The helmet helps us keep everything in perspective (*Matthew 16:26*). The joy of eternal hope (*Job 19:25 "I know my Redeemer lives"*) Through Jesus death and resurrection, we **KNOW** that we belong to God and heaven is our home.
- **v. 17 The Sword of the Spirit:** the only offensive weapon to protect us to move forward to proclaim the gospel, to proclaim the victory of Jesus Christ. We can stand against Satan by hearing, reading, and studying God's Word. (*Hebrews 4:12*) God's Word is our spiritual food.

Get dressed with the Word of God to protect yourself from Satan's attacks. Make the Word of God a top priority.

Be in prayer, be in the Word!

Support the PTL and attend the Annual Rummage Sale

September 7th, 8am -2pm.

- * If you have gently used clothing, furniture, household items, etc. to donate, you may bring them to the school gym stage any time during or right after school, by Sept. 6th. (No big furniture please)
- * We also need volunteers to help set up Thursday after school through Friday (Sept. 5-6th), supervise the event, and take down afterwards. Contact Heidi Wildauer for details, 414-698-8650.
- * All sales are free-will donations and the proceeds will support PTL activities.

Thank you for your support!





St. Paul's PTL in conjunction with Bourbon Street Pizza in Downtown Bourbon And Bourbon Street Pizza of Nappanee at 1411 East Market St. in Nappanee Will host a fundraiser on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 - all day.

Present this coupon at the restaurant of your choice and St. Paul's PTL will receive the percentage listed on the coupon for the sales from your patronage that day!

You must present a coupon when you pay your bill for St. Paul's PTL to receive credit!

This coupon may be copied. Give copies to all your friends and relatives and encourage them to support our school, too!!

Questions??? Call the school office at 546-2790



(574) 342-3032 Downtown Bourbon (574) 773-9600 Nappanee

Bring this Coupon into Either Pizzeria on September 24, 2024 and St. Paul's School will receive a:

20% Donation