Therefore I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.

Micah 7:7



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

Paul sees the Thessalonians as an example of how Christians are to live in a world opposed to God. Their love and commitment to one another and to all bolsters Paul's faith, even as he calls upon them to remain faithful as they await their Lord's return.

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 word "advent" is from the Latin word for "coming," and as such, describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh. Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus' earthly life began - in the Old Testament prophecies of His incarnation. After Advent comes Christmas, which is about His birth; then Epiphany, about His miracles and ministry. Advent specifically focuses on Christ's "coming," but Christ's coming manifests itself among us in three ways - past, present, and future. The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings, which highlight Christ's coming in the future, focus on his "second coming" on the Last Day at the end of time. And the readings that highlight Christ's coming in the present focus on his ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today.

© Excerpt from LCMS Website – Church Year FAQs ©

Bell Choir "O Sleep Now, Holy Baby"

Opening Hymn 332 "Savior of the Nations, Come" (*John 1:1, 14; Luke 2:30-32*)

+ 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 ⅓ Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)
- Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Adult Choir "Once He Came in Blessing"

Once He came in blessing, all our ills redressing;
 Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
 Bore the cross to save us, hope and freedom gave us.

2. Still He comes within us, still His voice would win us From the sins that hurt us; Would to truth convert us From our foolish errors, ere He comes in terrors.

Introit Psalm 89:6, 14-16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b

- P Behold, your King is coming to you;
- righteous and having salvation.
- **P** Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?
- **Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?**
- P Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
- steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.
- P Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout,
- who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,
- **P** who exult in Your name all the day
- and in Your righteousness are exalted.
- P For our shield belongs to the LORD,
- our king to the Holy One of Israel.
- 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 Behold, your King is coming to you;
- righteous and having salvation.



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"

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

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9a; Psalm 118:26

- P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
- **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**
- P Behold, your King is coming to you;
- righteous and having salvation.
- P Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- From the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Epistle Lesson

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

⁹What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

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

Alleluia LSB 190



Luke 19:28-40

The Holy Gospel Lesson

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.



²⁸When Jesus had said these things, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever vet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it." 32So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. ³³And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34And they said, "The Lord has need of it." 35And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶And as He rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As He was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of His disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." 40He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

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 331 "The Advent of Our King" (Luke 19:28-40; Phil. 2:5-11; Eph. 4:22-24; Daniel 7:13-14)

Sermon Text

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Sermon "Blameless Hearts"

1. By nature we cannot be ______ or _____.

2. God makes us holy and blameless in His sight ______.

3. The Holy Spirit empowers us to ______ that is holy and blameless.

Hymn 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (Romans 5:8-11; John 4:10; Heb. 4:15-16; Eph. 3:17b-18)

Prayers

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

LSB 162

- **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.



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

LSB 202

Bless we the Lord.



Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

LSB 202

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 \pm give you peace.



Closing Hymn 516 "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" (Matt. 25:1-13; Isaiah 62:5-12; Rev. 19:6-9; Rev. 7:9-17)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Today's altar flowers are given by Beth, Evelyn, Josephine, and Andrew Miller in celebration of Nathan's birthday. All praise & glory be to our risen Lord, Jesus, for the gift of life and His many blessings to us!

The 40th annual "Weinachts Vesper" (a Christmas Service in the German language) will be held at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 3rd, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 51490 Laurel Rd, (corner of Auto and Laurel roads) in South Bend. A time of fellowship will follow the service. Contact the church office at 574-271-1050 for more information.

Worship Anew can be viewed on Dish Channel 266 or Direct TV channel 377 on Sundays at 11:30 am.

Thank you to everyone who cooked turkeys, baked pies, donated funds, cooked sides, assembled meals, greeted guests, delivered meals, served, and cleaned up at our Community Thanksgiving Dinner! We greatly appreciate your hard work and generosity! Thanks to Thrivent for sponsoring the meal with needed funds.

Calendar of Events

TODAY	December 1st, 2024
Sunday School & Bible Classes	8:30 am
Worship Service	9:30 am
Bell Choir Practice	After Service
SCRIP Day	
Adult Basketball	2:30-4:30 pm
MON:	
TUES:	
WED:	
Day School Chapel	
Advent Dinner – Chili & Cornbread	6:00 pm
LWML Meeting	
Advent Worship Service	7:00 pm
THURS:	
Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study	9:30 am
PTL Cookie Exchange	5:00-7:00 pm
FRI:	
Preschool Chapel	9:30 am
SAT:	
"Happy Birthday Jesus" Breakfast & Party (PreK-C	
Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas (Grade 6-Adult)	
NEXT SUNDAY	
Sunday School & Bible Classes	
Worship Service with Communion	
Youth Christmas Eve Practice	
LWML Assemble Cheer Tins	
Congregation Christmas Caroling	4:00 pm

Chrismon tree will be placed Saturday, December 7. Anyone Grade 6 and up may help, beginning at 9:00 am.

"Happy Birthday, Jesus" Celebration! – for families with children, Pre-K – Grade 5. Come for a pancake breakfast and morning of activities to celebrate the birth of our Savior! Saturday, December 7th. Breakfast 8:30-9:30 am followed by a special program. More info coming soon!

Goody Bags for Christmas - The Board of Christian Education is asking your help to purchase candy for the "goody bags" the students will receive following the Children's Worship Service on December 18th. There will be a box in the Narthex to collect the candy. We will need the candy by December 15th. Thank you!

Special Concerns:

That we rely on Jesus to make our hearts blameless through His cross, increasing in love while awaiting His coming again.

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.

For those who serve us in their vocation of policemen and firemen. **For strength, comfort, and healing** to those dealing with the aftermath of hurricanes Helene and Milton.

LWML will fill 24 "Cheer Boxes" after service December 8. If you want to contribute, please bring **two dozen individually wrapped** items to the church kitchen Sunday morning December 8. Thank you

The Board of Evangelism along with St. Paul's congregation will be doing an ingathering for Grace Food Pantry in Bremen from December 1 to 15 with delivery on December 19. Your items may be placed on the table in front of the church office. They have requested the following items: any kind of baking items such as pie filling, cake or cookie mix, flour, sugar, brown sugar, baking soda, chocolate chips, also French fried onions, sloppy joe mix, canned meat (except salmon), juice, peanut butter, jelly, canned soup, pasta or rice sides. The Food Pantry also gives birthday boxes to its clientele! If you would like to make birthday boxes, they include a cake mix, frosting, 12 oz can soda, sprinkles, candles, foil pan and a blank birthday card. Grace Food Pantry is open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 11 am to 4 pm. Due to Christmas being on the 4th Wednesday this year they will be open Monday, December 23 instead. This is a great way to love and minister to our neighbors. Thank you for your donations!!

You Are Invited to Our Advent and Christmas Services

Midweek Advent Dinners – Dec. 4th & 11th at 6:00 pm Midweek Advent Services – Dec. 4th & 11th at 7:00 pm Children's Christmas Service – Dec. 18th at 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Dec. 24th at 7:00 pm Christmas Day Service – Dec. 25th at 9:30 am New Years' Eve Service – Dec. 31st at 7:00 pm **Midweek Advent Meal - December 4th** from 6:00-6:45 pm is sponsored by The Board of Public Relations. On the menu is chili and cornbread. Please bring cookies or dessert to share at the meal. This is also sponsored by Thrivent. Parish Fellowship will be supplying the drinks and dinnerware. Let us come together and feast on good food, and then on the Word of God in the worship service at 7:00 pm.

The 44th Annual Bremen Holy Walk will be Friday, Dec. 6th, 6:00-9:00 pm and Saturday, Dec. 7th, 5-9 pm. Children's hours are on Sat., 5:00-6:00 pm. Buses leave from Bremen High School.

From the Hospitality Crew: We will be preparing our next meal on Wednesday, December 11th at 9:00 am. The meal for December is a spaghetti pasta casserole. We are in need of: mini pepperoni, rotini and penne pasta, and individually wrapped cookies or treats – sweet or salty to fill a gift tin. We would like to also give a HUGE THANK YOU to all who have helped and supported us. We could not do this without you!

<u>Voters' Assembly Minutes</u> – Copies of the minutes from the November 25 regular Voters' Assembly meeting are available on the table in the narthex. The minutes contain board reports, resolutions, and the attendance records from the meeting. If the supply has run out and you desire a copy for yourself, please contact Ken Eichinger. If you prefer an electronic copy, email Ken at <u>keneichinger@gmail.com</u>.

Thank you to all who donated clothes for Hope Ministries! You have shown generosity and compassion to our neighbors in the name of Jesus.

"Seminary Adopt A Student"

St. Paul's has in our budget a support line for a Seminary student. Currently we have no Seminary student sponsored. If you know of anyone attending either the Ft. Wayne or St. Louis LCMS Seminaries, please forward the name and contact information to Jim Tinkey of the Board of Stewardship.

Check out the Mission Board for the latest update from Micah Wildauer and his family serving in Belize and the Flores family in Chile. There is also the latest news from Haiti. We have heard recently that the United States is on lockout from Haiti so no one is allowed to go into the country at this time. Please keep Lophane, our Lutheran liaison in Portau-Prince, and his family in your prayers (due to the violence, Lophane has sent his family to be with relatives in the United States). Lophane is handling most everything to keep the churches and schools in Jeremie going. God is good all the time and all the time God is good.

YOUTH NEWS

JESUS'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (December 7th): The Youth Board is helping prepare the pancake breakfast as part of the Birthday Celebration sponsored by the Board of Christian Education. We will need any/all Youth that are available in Grades 6-HS to help with the breakfast, as we will be meeting at 7 am on December 7th.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE PRACTICES: For those Youth planning to participate, we will be holding practices (which will last approximately an hour) following the church services on the following Sundays:

December 8th
December 15th
December 22nd
*Before the Christmas Eye service

Look for more information about our Youth Group via our "St. Paul's Youth" GroupMe chat or contact Youth Board Director Andy Wildauer with any questions.

SCHOOL CORNER

We hope you had a happy Thanksgiving! School resumes tomorrow (Dec.2nd).

Remember our two big events the first week in December: <u>PTL Cookie Exchange</u>- Dec. 5th, 5-7pm, Bethany Room (see insert for directions); and the <u>Jesus Celebration</u>, for <u>Preschool through 8th Grades</u>- Dec. 7th, 8:30 Breakfast, with crafts, activities, and tree decorating to follow!

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the students of St. Paul's, we have a variety of opportunities! We like to have volunteers to read with or assist students with classwork during the school day. We also would like more assistance with Extended Care. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

Please continue giving to the Lutheran SGO! We use the SGO both for elementary school scholarships and Pre-K scholarships, and it has been a great benefit to our families. 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 December 1st, 2024

Pastor Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Curt Nielsen & Jim Mitchell

Acolyte: Emiliano Mejia

Elder: Mike Gumz

Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt

Servants for Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

Ushers: Dakota Schmeltz & Gio Mejia

Acolyte: Rachel Rogers Elder: Terry Miller

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

Pastor Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Todd Haug & Bruce Augustine

Acolyte: Colton Napper Elder: Dave Burcham

Communion Assistant: Bill Rogers Video Streamer: Ethan Tjernagel

ST PAUL'S 2ND ANNUAL

Christmas Cookie Exchange Come ergoy tris adult-only event Sent turning only Sent tur

December 5th, 5pm - 7pm St Paul's Bethany Room

RSVP to (574) 274-5468



- Bring a copy of your recipe. Recipes will be compiled and later shared with all participants.
- Please bring 5 dozen of your favorite cookie or bar - 1 variety please (Award for the prettiest).
- 1 dozen will be for sampling, so please provide those separately on a paper plate, cut into bite-sized pieces (Award for best tasting).
- The other 4 dozen will be for exchanging.
- Festively display your cookies in any way you'd prefer, but the most elaborate the better (Award for best display).
- · Bring a container to take your cookies home.
- Enjoy the fun, refreshments, and adult fellowship!



Happy Birthday, Jesus!

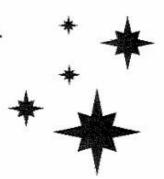


A Sets Indov Coleby orden

Bring the family for a morning of Christmas fun, centered on the advent of our coming Lord. Age-based activities will be happening throughout the church all morning, so come and go as you please!

- Breakfast | 8:30 9:30 a.m.
 Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice
- Program | 9:30 11:30 a.m.

 Devotional
 Re-enact the Christmas Story
 Songs
 Crafts for Pre-K through 5th grade
 Special activities for 6th-8th graders



Saturday, Dec. 7 8:30-11:30 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bremen

Free Will Offering taken at Breakfast to support SPLYouth

2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering "Endure" (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Did you know that 11 of our Youth (and 5 Adult Leaders) from St. Paul's will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana in July 2025? Over the next several months, we will be sharing some information with the congregation about each of these young people. This Sunday, meet

Jack Wildauer (Junior at Bremen HS)

What do you most enjoy about school?

Spending lunch with friends

What extracurricular activities do you participate in?

- Football, basketball, and baseball
- Spell Bowl, DECA



What have been some of your favorite Youth activities here at St. Paul's?

Lock Ins, Dunes, Ice Skating

What are you most looking forward to about attending the National Youth Gathering?

 I am excited to visit a new place and be surrounding by Christians my age

What did you enjoy most about the past Youth Gathering you attended?

Wide range of topics there were speakers for

How can the congregation support Jack and the other Youth?

- Through prayer as they continue their walk with our Lord
- Financially either through various opportunities we have planned (free will offerings) or special donations through weekly offerings (*please specify as National Youth Gathering)

Financial Goal: \$25,000 Gathered: \$11,100 (approximately)

Other attendees (and current grade):

Noah Wildauer (12th), Autumn Napper (11th), Izzy Wildauer (10th), Lexi Andrews (9th), Gavin Hundt (9th), Gabi Mejia (9th), Reuben Napper (9th), Colton Napper (8th), Brantley Thornton (8th), and Abby Wildauer (8th)

If you have any questions, please speak with Andy Wildauer

Sunday School Winter Quarter offerings – All classes 8:30-9:15

Pre-K-Grade 2 (Nazareth Room)

Theo is back! Join our puppet friend as he leads us through the Advent and Christmas seasons, telling about prophets of old and the birth of our Savior, Jesus. After that, we will hear about Jesus' earthly life and ministry.Taught by Wendy Coxey.....

Grades 3-5 (Mrs. Rogers' Classroom)

Students hear the comforting News of God's Saving love for them as told by O.T. prophets and N.T. eye witnesses. Lessons include -- Jonah, Daniel, Esther, plus the birth, ministry, and passion of Christ.

..... Taught by Jeanette Rettinger.....

Middle School Grades 6-8 (Mr. Miller's Classroom)

Students will be intrigued by **Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Gory Deaths!** This study uses true stories from the Bible to show how God's justice smashes the sinful, the sinister, the sneaky; and they show how Jesus conquers death and gives new life (through His own gory death).

.....Taught by Barb Middaugh.....

High School (Bethany Room)

Please join the Adult Bible Class through the month of December. Watch for additional announcements.

Adult Bible Class (Bethany Room)

The account of Jonah is more than a "whale of a tale"! Hear God's message to the lost and to those who have been called to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in a very broken world. **Taught by Tom Coxey.**

More Opportunities for Bible Study

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study ...meets every other Wednesday (beginning Dec. 11th) 6:30-7:30 am at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and lively discussion.