

From Pastor Wonnacott's Keyboard:

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**Website:**

stpaulsbremen.church  
facebook.com/stpaulsbremen  
vimeo.com/stpaulsbremen

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Sunday Schedule:**

Sunday School: 8:30 am  
Worship: 9:30 am

**Pastor** Neil Wonnacott

Office Hours: M, W, TH & F  
8:30 – 11:30 am

Let me begin my article by thanking our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for each and every one of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ! We live together in Jesus' love and forgiveness, and He shows us how we are to live in our community and serve our neighbors. I thank God for all the extra stuff and projects that we did together; I asked for help, and you opened your hearts to serve God and your neighbor. I also thank Jesus for all the opportunities He gave us to worship together in His house, and I thank all who worked to make that possible!

2025 will be another blessed year as our Lord and Savior leads us to see the work and service He has designed for His body to do together in faith.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Emmanuel – God with us. We meditate on that truth at Christmas, and rightly so, but we hold to that throughout our lives! Jesus is always with us in joys and sorrows to strengthen, forgive, and guide us. Take a moment to reflect over the past year of how Jesus has brought you to this very time and place.

We know that 2025 will be bright and beautiful because Jesus will give us His light to reflect and show others the only way to Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Jesus said: “I am **the light of the world**. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have **the light of life.**”

My prayer for you is that we walk together in the **Light of Christ; loving, forgiving, growing, and making room in the Lord’s House for more!**

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**THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY EPISTLE IS JANUARY 20TH!!!** Epistle articles, comments, ideas may be deposited in the epistle box in the Narthex mail slots or e-mailed to Eric Thornton at firemanet@yahoo.com. I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

### **Church Office Hours**

The new hours for the church office are Monday through Friday from  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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**Ushers:** It is very important that you find your own replacement if you are not going to be able to usher during your assigned time. Please take the time to do this so that we always have ushers available to assist our members and visitors. Thank you.

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### **OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US**

Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose “e-tithing” by having a weekly deposit to St Paul’s from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

**Euchre Party** is Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 7-9:00 pm in the Bethany Room. Anyone 16 and older can join us for fun and fellowship, and please bring a snack to share. Beverages will be provided. Come and bring a friend!

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**Potluck Breakfast** – January 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. Bring your favorite breakfast dish to share!

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**Worship Anew** is once again available on local WSBT-TV FOX channel 22.2 on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am. They are still working on a Sunday time slot. It can still be viewed on Dish Channel 266 or Direct TV channel 377 on Sundays at 11:30 am.

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**From the Church Office:** Please make sure to let the church office know if you or a family member have a change of address. The cost of "address change mail" has gone from 67 cents to 90 cents. That adds up quickly, especially when we have 2 or 3 in a week. I greatly appreciate your help with this.

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## YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES

### Recent Events

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS:** Early on December 7<sup>th</sup>, our Youth helped prepare a pancake breakfast for those who gathered to celebrate the coming Christ Child's birth. What a wonderful opportunity to gather in fellowship with one another.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Once again our Youth of various ages had an opportunity to share the Christmas Gospel with the congregation. Using the "Christmas by the Book" service format, narrators guided us through scripture with a retelling of the best story ever shared with mankind while some of our younger Youth acted out scenes from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

### Upcoming Events

**YOUTH WEEKEND:** Over the weekend of Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have various Youth-related activities:

- **Youth Babysitting / Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** (6-8 pm at church/school): Available for children in Preschool – Grade 5. No cost. Free will donations appreciated in support of the 2025 National Youth Gathering.
- **“No Sale” Bake Sale / Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** (following the church service): Baked goodies available to the congregation. No cost. Free will donations appreciated in support of the 2025 National Youth Gathering.
- **Super Bowl Subs / Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**: First Sunday to place orders for Super Bowl Subs (available on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> before the Big Game)
- **Ice Skating / Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**: Available for Youth in Grades 4 – High School. Meet at church at 1 pm. Cost is \$5/attendee. Return by mid-afternoon.

## 2025 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

We appreciate your continued support and ask that you keep all of those listed below in your prayers as they prepare to attend the National Youth Gathering next summer.

**FINANCIAL GOAL UPDATE:** We have collected approximately \$11,500 of our financial goal of \$25,000. If you have questions or would like to donate toward this, please speak with Youth Board Chairman Andy Wildauer or any Adult Leader listed below.

**Youth Attendees (by grade):** Noah Wildauer (12th), Autumn Napper (11th), Jack Wildauer (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)

**Adult Leaders:** Tonya Hundt, Rebecca Mejia, Rick Napper, Eric Thornton, Heidi Wildauer

Information is available through our GroupMe “St. Paul’s Youth” chat as well as various church communication channels. If there are any questions related to the Youth Group, please contact Andy Wildauer at (801) 707-3399.

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**Happy New Year!**

**We hope you had a relaxing and fun time celebrating Christmas with family and friends! School resumes on January 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Thank you to all who have volunteered in the school so far this year! We appreciate all you have done for the students and teachers. We couldn't do it without your support (or not as well)!**

**We are looking forward to the second half of the school year. January brings cold weather, maybe snow, and . . . National Lutheran Schools Week, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>!** This is a week of celebrating our Lutheran Schools and the mission they provide in sharing a Christ-centered education with students around the states. St. Paul's students will be celebrating with special chapel services, dress-up days, special activities, and a fundraiser for a charity yet to be named. Be on the lookout for more information in the church bulletin and newsletters!

### **SGO Fundraising is Ongoing!**

**January starts the new tax cycle for the Lutheran SGO, and new opportunities to receive a tax credit and deduction for your donations for 2025! (We can now use these funds to offer assistance to Pre-K students, age 4 by August 1<sup>st</sup>.)** You can find several (easy) ways to donate at [www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate](http://www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate), or we also have a link on the church website, [stpaulsbremen.church](http://stpaulsbremen.church), under the school drop-down\_menu. Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** **Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction.** These scholarships make a big difference for our families. If you desire to mail a check to the LSGO, pamphlets with mailing information are available in the tract rack. **(Checks needs to be written to the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization.)**

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

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### **PTL FUNDRAISER**

**Thank you to everyone who supported us at our past fundraisers!!**

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### **Mission of the Month**

Our Sunday School continues to send \$75.00 each month to a mission.

**January Mission of the Month: Women's Care Center**

Mission: Our mission is to help pregnant women from our communities choose life for their babies, have healthier pregnancies, become better parents and take first steps to self-sufficiency.

Our January Sunday School Mission of the Month donation of \$75 will go to the Women's Care Center in Marshall County, 224 N Michigan St., Plymouth IN.

### **Preschool Postings**

Our students did a wonderful job proclaiming the good news at their Christmas service, and the joy was evident on their faces! They're going to learn so much more about Jesus this second half of the school year - His baptism, ministry, miracles, suffering, death, and resurrection. They'll also get ready to read, develop more of their motor skills, and learn social skills to carry them into Kindergarten and beyond. Please continue to keep them in your prayers!

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#### **“Staying Power”**

*But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9*

True power needs to last. Many distance runners start with a burst of energy but fade on the stretch. The best athletes sometimes lose to a steadier team which takes better conditioning into the final quarter or overtime period. We are describing staying power.

Yes, God provides a power source unlimited in the resurrection of His Son. He also supplies Word power, the Gospel, to unlock that power source. And He intends for us to use His resources to keep going over the long haul, to have staying power.

Paul, the great on-the-go missionary, learned the importance of staying power when God sent him a thorn in the flesh, some illness or physical handicap that simply wouldn't go away. Paul prayed and hoped, but the problem remained. Discouraged and frustrated, Paul finally got the message of our text. Paul was being conditioned for the long haul. He felt weak and unable to continue. At that point he learned to accept his weakness and rely totally on God's grace and power. Now he could face any troubles, because Christ was always there for him.

Similarly we will experience discouragement and frustration after our initial "going." We will experience God's testing in our personal lives as well as in our witnessing efforts. But God says also to us, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." We look to the weak and helpless Son of God, nailed to a cross for us, and then experience His resurrection power flowing from the empty tomb to us in our weakness.

## **Sunday School -- Winter Quarter Offerings**

Don't let the doldrums of winter get you down! Be lifted up by the warmth of God's Word and caring Christian fellowship! Join us for Bible Study today!

### **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 ..... 8:30-9:15 a.m.

### **Grades 3-5 (Mrs. Roger's 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 ... 8:30- 9:15 a.m.

### **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 .... 8:30-9:15 a.m.

### **High School (Bethany Room)**

Please join the Adult Bible Class during 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 .... 8:30-9:15 a.m.

## **More Opportunities for Bible Study:**

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

**Thursday Morning Ladies' Bible Study** .... meets every week beginning December 5, 9:30-10:45 a.m. The ladies are finishing up **LifeLight Bible Study: Matthew, Part 2**. It will be followed by the new study. ... **Mirror, Mirror** ..... Do you like what you see when you look in the mirror? If you said no, you aren't alone! This study will encourage you to see yourself as God does - through the filter of the cross, in the reflection of His Son, with eyes of love.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## January 2025

### ANNIVERSARIES

8 Doug & Rhonda Owens

31 Joshua & Deana Miller

### BIRTHDAYS

1 Kenneth Knigga II

22 Thomas Harman  
Giovanni Mejia  
Josephine Miller

6 Eric Foster  
Rebecca Mejia  
Erin Sarber

24 Aiden Eby  
Cody Miller  
Elliott VanSoest

7 Jaylyn Dobbins

9 Brody Beasley  
Goldie Buckner  
Sandy Kiefer

25 Carter Miller  
Candy Perkins

10 Terri Bickel  
Keith Russell  
Beth Schmitt

26 Jared Nielsen

12 Janet Miller

27 Carole Sahlhoff

14 James Mitchell

30 Conner Perkins  
Dorothy Walter

15 Sharon Latzke

31 Angela Hughes

16 Marian Yoder  
Melody Farnsworth

17 Kayli Ann Miller

18 Brittney Pittman  
Tony Venable

19 Keegan Robbins  
Lilly Rogers

21 Carly Dietl  
Kyle Hinds

