

Therefore, if anyone



is in Christ,

he is a new creation.

The old has passed away;

Behold,

the new has come.



2 Corinthians 5:17

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

This morning is the beginning of a series of Sundays that will focus on the important topic of Christian stewardship. It's a subject that is little understood, misunderstood, or not understood by many, and yet stewardship is part of the very fabric of our lives as people, especially as people of God, as people who've been reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit through Water and the Word (our Baptism) and given a new life to live, a new life that's lived with purpose, to the glory of God.

We welcome all to God's house this morning!

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.

For decades, the LCMS has boldly proclaimed that stewardship is the free and joyous activity where the child of God and God's family, the church, manage **all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.** This definition has enabled us to embrace a faithful and full understanding of the baptized child of God's identity as a steward. Stewardship is never easy. It cannot be ignored. Nor can it be reduced to filling out a card and going back to our lives. It is a daily and weekly call to repentance. The Lord opens His Word to us daily and His Table to us weekly. He does this to sustain us in the task of stewardship. This is not an easy task but the very one for which He has made us and to which He has called us. He is faithful. In Christ He has redeemed and restored us to this task. We don't deserve it in any way. He will work His work in us! It isn't an easy task. But it is a completed task in Christ.

∞ Excerpt from LW, Nov. 11, 2024 – Nathan Meador ∞

Opening Hymn 902 "Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"
(Ps. 43:3-4; Heb. 13:15; Is. 6:3; Ps. 95:2)

✠ 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.**

Children's Choir "Thy Word"

Chorus: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near;
Please be near me to the end.

2. I will not forget Your love to me and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide and hold me by Your side
And I will love You to the end.

CCLI #14301 Amy Grant / Michael W. Smith © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company; Vinny Mae's Girl

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 36:5-9; antiphon: Song of Solomon 2:4

- P** The Lord brought me to the banqueting house,
C and His banner over me was love.
- P** Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
C Your faithfulness to the clouds.
- P** Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
**C Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast
You save, O LORD.**
- P** How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!
**C The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of
Your wings.**
- P** They feast on the abundance of Your house,
C and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.
- P** For with You is the fountain of life;
C in Your light do we see light.
- 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** The Lord brought me to the banqueting house,
C and His banner over me was love.

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-3a

¹But now thus says the LORD,
He who created you, O Jacob,

He who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are Mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

P Praise the LORD, all nations!

C **Extol Him, all peoples!**

P For great is His steadfast love toward us,

C **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

P Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

C **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

The Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:14–21

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

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.

The Holy Gospel Lesson

Luke 19:1–10

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



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was about to pass that way. ⁵And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried and came down and received Him joyfully. ⁷And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." ⁹And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

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 781 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

(1 John 3:16-18; Matt. 25:40, Ex. 23:19a; James 1:27)

Sermon Texts

Isaiah 43:1-3a; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Luke 19:1-10

Sermon “God’s Stewards: God’s Stewards”

1. Apart from Christ, we are naturally _____ .
2. God is the _____ of all things and our _____ .
3. So now in Christ, we are His new creation, _____ .

Hymn 805 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” *Also known as “The Doxology” (Psalm 150, Is. 6:1-4; Rev. 4:8)*

Prayers

Lord’s Prayer *(Matthew 6:9-13)* *LSB 251*

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)* *LSB 166*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and \dagger give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn 920 “Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go” *(1 Peter 2:9; Col. 3:16-17; Rev. 5:10; 20:6)*

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Don't Forget! Parish Fellowship Meeting tomorrow at 10:30 am in the Emmaus Room.

Winter LWML Quarterlies are in the tract rack and **new directories** are next to the offering box.

Calendar of Events

TODAY January 19th, 2025

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
Worship Service..... 9:30 am
Youth "No Sale Bake Sale" & Ice SkatingAfter Service
Adult Basketball..... 2:30-4:30 pm
Bell Choir Practice5:00 pm
Adult Choir Practice6:00 pm

MON:

Parish Fellowship Meeting..... 10:30 am
Board Meetings7:00 pm

TUES:

Board of Lay Ministry Meeting6:30 pm

WED:

Men's Bible Study Breakfast 6:30 am
Day School Chapel 11:00 am

THURS:

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study 9:30 am

FRI:

Preschool Chapel 9:30 am

SAT:

NEXT SUNDAY ∞ Lutheran Schools Week ∞ January 26th, 2025

Potluck Breakfast 8:00 am
Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am
No Bell or Adult Choir Practice.....5:00 pm

Thank you from Pastor and Christie Wonnacott for all your prayers, cards, and food as Pastor recovered from his surgery. Our God is good and gracious, and we are thankful for His healing. We're very grateful for our family here at St. Paul's!

" Seminary Adopt A Student" - St. Paul's supports students attending the Ft. Wayne or St. Louis LCMS Seminaries. If you know of anyone attending either of these, please forward the name and contact information to Jim Tinkey of the Board of Stewardship.

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. 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: 1/22, 2/5, 2/19, 3/5, 3/19, 4/2, 4/16, 4/30, 5/14, 5/28, 6/11, 6/25, 7/9, 7/23, 8/6, 8/20, 9/3, 9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/26, 12/10, 12/24

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

LWML, February 3rd, 7:00 pm, in the Bethany Room. Guest speaker Sarah Rippey, LWML District President. Program: cards/notes of encouragement & Pack college student "Goodie Boxes." If you wish to donate please bring 1 dozen individually wrapped items to the church kitchen on February 2nd, or to the meeting. Guests are always welcome.

If you have a child in college (living at home or away) and would like them to receive a "Cheer Box" from the LWML ladies, please get their address to the church office no later than January 26th. Thank you.

Worship Anew can be viewed on local WSBT-TV FOX channel 22.2 on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am and on Dish Channel 266 or Direct TV channel 377 on Sundays at 11:30 am

Servants for Today's Worship January 19th, 2025

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

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Joe Hughes & Gio Mejia

Acolyte: Brantley Thornton

Elder: Mike Gumz

Video Streamer: Ethan Tjernagel

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? We will continue to share some information with the congregation about each of these young people. This Sunday, meet

Gavin Hundt (Freshman at Northwood HS)

What do you most enjoy about school?

- Advanced Physical Conditioning (APC), Weightlifting

What extracurricular activities do you participate in?

- Football, Snow skiing

What other hobbies or interests do you have?

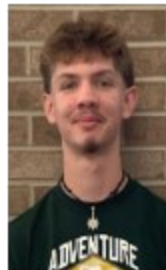
- Boxing, listening to music, and spending time with loved ones

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

- MS Lock In, Tobogganing

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

- Listening to different speakers preach about the Lord



How can the congregation support Gavin 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: \$12,300 (approximately)

Other attendees (and current grade):

Noah Wildauer (12th), Autumn Napper (11th), Jack Wildauer (11th), Izzy Wildauer (10th), Lexi Andrews (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

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship January 26th, 2025

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

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Dakota Schmeltz & Austin Nielsen

Acolyte: Kellan Guse

Elder: Bill Rogers

Communion Assistant: Terry Miller

Video Streamer: Tyler/Dakota Schmeltz

Things to Remember in Prayer This Week

Thanksgiving: For God's plan to create and redeem us to be His stewards.

Special Concerns:

That we remember and live a life of stewardship to the glory of our God!

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 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 displaced from hurricanes Helene and Milton and the current wildfires in California.

YOUTH NEWS

HAPPENING TODAY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

"No Sale" Bake Sale - Join us in the Bethany Room fellowship hall to pick out a tasty treat - no cost - donations appreciated and will go toward the 2025 National Youth Gathering

Pizza Lunch + Ice Skating - following the NSBS and Super Bowl Subs orders - for Grades 4-HS - we will have lunch/activity and then head to ice skating at approximately 1 pm - cost is \$5/attendee

SUPER BOWL SUBS (*available for pick up on February 9th following the church service*): **Place your orders beginning today** after the service. All orders must be received by Sunday, February 2nd. **No cost for the subs** - free will donations appreciated.

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

Two school highlights in the narthex- One is that the Christmas tree is now a Teacher Wish List Tree! If you would like to show appreciation to our teachers, please pick an ornament to purchase items for various classrooms, the library, Extended Care, etc. Then bring the ornament and "gift" back and place it under the tree. We appreciate your generosity!

The other highlight is to take a moment and read about our Kindergarten class. All 10 students are on the bulletin board!

January also brings National Lutheran Schools Week, January 26th -31st. We are blessed to have a school at St. Paul's, and will remember all Lutheran Schools that week with prayer and fun! Activities and special dress-up days are planned. We will also be raising money for Right to Life of North Central Indiana, in memory of Jane Stillson, during a bowl-a-thon.

Jane Stillson declined breast cancer treatment, and an abortion, to protect the life of her unborn child. Jane's Park at Sunnyside was built in honor of her sacrifice. Memorials were requested for Women's Care Center on her behalf. Giving to RTL of NCI also recognizes January as National Right to Life Month.

Please start advertising now for St. Paul's Preschool and Day School, school year 2025-26! We offer a Christian alternative to education, not only focusing on core curriculum, but also providing a Biblical, Christ-centered focus. With our comprehensive scholarship program, a Christian education can cost little or nothing. **Word of mouth is the best form of advertisement, so please encourage your family to check us out!**

Thank you to all who donated to the SGO in 2024! The opportunities for giving (and receiving tax benefits) haven't ended! Please continue to give in 2025! 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.