

And Jesus said to them, "Why did you seek Me?  
Did you not know that I must be about  
My Father's business?"

Luke 2:49



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

We welcome Pastor Gregory Fiechtner this morning. Our prayer is that we grow in Christ as he speaks to us from the book of Luke.

**May the Lord bless all who worship here 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.

Jesus' first words in the Gospel of Luke, "**Why would you be searching for Me?**" He asked. "**Didn't you know all along that I had to be about My Father's business?**" The Greek phrase *ti hoti* means "why is it that...?" It occurs only three times in the New Testament, always from Luke's pen. Here it expresses Jesus' wonder that Mary and Joseph would be looking for Him when they should have known all along where He was and what He was doing. The final phrase of the verse is indefinite. Jesus says literally, "...that I have to be about the 'things' of My Father?" And His plural answer, "My Father's 'things,'" tells us that He does not necessarily mean the house of His Father, but the works of His Father. Jesus has to be about His Father's work, will, and business. The business of God is speaking. He speaks the law, the gospel; the message of sin and grace, and the promise of our salvation. Why would we seek Jesus anyplace else, or for any other reason? Those who look to Jesus only for an example of a good life miss the point of Jesus entirely. He does not call us to social change, but for a change in the heart. He calls us away from sin, doubt, and despair. He calls us to faith, trust, and eternal life. ∞ Sermon excerpt by Pastor Timothy Smith-WELS ∞

**Opening Hymn 395** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"  
*(Rev. 22:16; Luke 1:68-79; Eph. 1:3-7; Psalm 33:1-5)*

✠ 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 147:1, 5, 11-12; antiphon: John 1:14

- P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,
- C** **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- P** Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
- C** **for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**
- P** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

**C** His understanding is beyond measure.

**P** But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

**C** in those who hope in His steadfast love.

**P** Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

**C** Praise your God, O Zion!

**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 Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,

**C** **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**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.

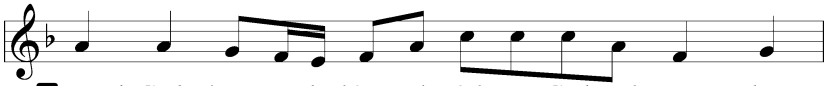
**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**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 God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our

lives; through the same 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

*1 Kings 3:4–15*

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward You. And You have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give Your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern Your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this Your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

- P** To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;  
**C** **and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**  
**P** And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
**C** **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**  
**P** Sing to the Lord a new song,  
**C** **for He has done marvelous things!**

## The Epistle Lesson

*Ephesians 1:3–14*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, <sup>8</sup>which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup>In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

**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 2:40–52*

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



**G** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>40</sup>The child Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

<sup>41</sup>Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the Boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. <sup>48</sup>And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**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 410** "Within the Father's House"  
*(Luke 2:41-52; 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 Cor. 2:7-10; Eph. 1:9)*

**Sermon Text** *Luke 2:41-52*

**Sermon** "They Grow Up So Fast"

**Hymn 392** "God Loves Me Dearly"  
*(1 John 4:9-10; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4-5)*

## Prayers

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

**☐** 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*

**☐** 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 † give you peace.



**☐** A - men.

**Closing Hymn 385** "From East to West"  
*(Luke 1:26-31; 2:7-11; Psalm 95:1-6; Phil 2:5-7)*

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book  
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.  
Cover Art: *Inspired by Heinrich Hofmann artwork*

## Calendar of Events

<b>TODAY</b> .....	<b>January 5th, 2025</b>
Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service.....	9:30 am
<b>MON:</b> ∞ <b>School Resumes</b> ∞	
Parish Planning Council Meeting .....	7:00 pm
<b>TUES:</b>	
PTL Meeting .....	6:00 pm
<b>WED:</b>	
Men's Bible Study Breakfast .....	6:30 am
Day School Chapel .....	11:00 am
<b>THURS:</b>	
Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study .....	9:30 am
<b>FRI:</b>	
Preschool Chapel .....	9:30 am
<b>SAT:</b>	
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b> .....	<b>January 12th, 2025</b>
Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service with communion.....	9:30 am
Bell Choir Practice .....	5:00 pm
Adult Choir Practice .....	6:00 pm

**Winter LWML Quarterlies** are in the tract rack.

**The flower chart for 2025** is now up next to the Altar Guild Room. Please take this opportunity to glorify our Savior and King by signing up to put flowers on the altar for Sunday services.

**Pastor Wonnacott and family will be on vacation Dec. 26 through Jan. 5.** Pastor had full hip replacement surgery on Dec. 27. Please pray for Pastor and God's will to be done.

**A Sweater was found** in the church parking lot after Christmas Eve services. If you, or someone you know is missing this very nice sweater, it is hanging on the coat rack. (Please don't make it join the gray glove.)

**Anyone wanting poinsettias** from the chancel, please see Kay Miller after the church service today to take them home with you.

**Goldie Buckner would like to thank everyone** for the lovely cards she has been receiving. Thank you for thinking about me. God's blessings to all!

**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

### **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: 1/8, 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.*

**Thank you to all who brought in donations** for the Bremen Food Pantry ingathering in December! We delivered 462 pounds of food! The food pantry is required to weigh all donations. They are open the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Our next ingathering for the Food Pantry will be in March.

### **Special Concerns:**

**That we desire** to always be doing the Father's business - speaking the Gospel of salvation to everyone we meet.

**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 still displaced in the aftermath of hurricanes Helene and Milton.

**LWML, February 3rd, 7:00 pm, in the Bethany Room.** Guest speaker Sarah Rippy, 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** 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.

**" 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.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

**UPCOMING EVENTS in 2025** (more information to follow)

**Youth Babysitting** (January 17th 6-8 pm): For families with children in Preschool-5th Grade - donations toward the 2025 National Youth Gathering

**“No Sale” Bake Sale** (January 19th following the church service) – donations toward the 2025 National Youth Gathering

**Youth Ice Skating** (January 19th - afternoon) - for Grades 4-HS – sign up by Sunday, January 12th on the Youth bulletin board – cost is \$5/attendee – lunch provided following the bake sale and before we leave.

**Super Bowl Subs** (February 9th) - orders can be placed beginning January 19th following the 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**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** School is on break until January 6<sup>th</sup>. Have a safe and relaxing vacation, celebrating the Birth of our Savior and all the gifts He has given us!

**Thank you to all who have volunteered in the school this year (so far)!** We appreciate all the extra time and care you give to the students, and they enjoy having you! Have a wonderful Christmas Break!

**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.

---

**As we begin 2025, we ask that you consider giving to the 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](http://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 January 5th, 2025**

Pastor Gregory Fiechtner  
Organist: Ellen Augustine  
Ushers: Larry Britt & Bruce Augustine  
Acolyte: Colton Napper  
Elder: Jon Rettinger  
Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott

### **Servants for Next Sunday's Worship January 12th, 2025**

Pastor Gregory Fiechtner  
Organist: Anita Eichinger  
Ushers: Steve Fox & Tyler Schmeltz  
Acolyte: Abby & Josie Wildauer  
Elder: Larry Britt  
Communion Assistant: Dave Burcham  
Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt