For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21



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

We welcome everyone to God's house this morning for our fourth and final part of our stewardship sermon series. Today we will look at the biblical principle that we who are **God's stewards: Living in the Present, Looking to the Future.**

May God's presence continue to bless us 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.

Be a stewardship hedgehog! The distinction between the fox and the hedgehog is summarized by psychologist Phil Tetlock who contrasts them this way: "Foxes have different strategies for different problems. They are comfortable with nuance; they can live with contradictions. Hedgehogs, on the other hand, focus on the big picture. They reduce every problem to one organizing principle." **If we center all our teaching of stewardship on our identity as stewards of the most precious treasure, the Gospel, and our and our neighbors' need for it, the Holy Spirit leads us to be faithful.** There will always be a place for the Law calling us to repentance and faithful stewardship. But the hedgehog steward sees not a nuanced, manipulated burden, but true reconciled freedom in Jesus Christ! Embrace your role as a stewardship hedgehog. Connect all you teach and all whom you lead to the one central big purpose for stewardship: **the Gospel!**

. *Excerpt from LW, January 10, 2024 – Nathan Meador*

Bell Choir "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"

Opening Hymn 908 "Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear"
(Psalm 119:131-133, 140; 143:8)

✢ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✢

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.**

Adult Choir "When Peace, Like a River" *LSB 763*
(Is. 26:3; Luke 2:29; Rom. 5:1; Col. 3:15)

✢ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✢

Introit *Psalm 71:15-18; antiphon: v. 12*

P O God, be not far from me;

C **O my God, make haste to help me!**

P My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all the day,

C for their number is past my knowledge.
P With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;
C I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.
P O God, from my youth You have taught me,
C and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.
P So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
C until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.
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 O God, be not far from me;
C O my God, make haste to help me!

Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)* *LSB 152*

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



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.



P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you. *(2 Timothy 4:22)*



℗ Let us pray.
O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The New Testament Lesson *1 Timothy 6:17–19*

17As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Gradual *Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8*

℗ Praise the LORD, all nations!
C Extol Him, all peoples!
℗ For great is His steadfast love toward us,
C and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
℗ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
C bring an offering, and come into His courts!

Epistle *2 Peter 3:8–13, 17–18*

8But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

11Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13But according to His promise we are

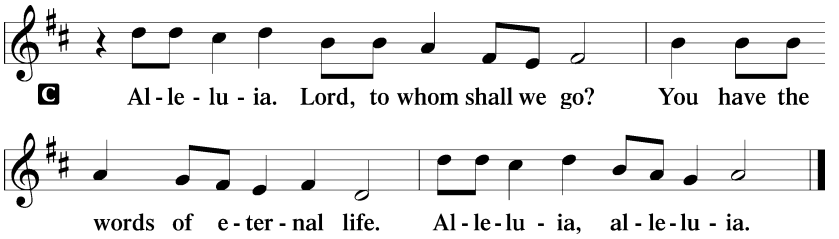
waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

17You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 18But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

℗ This is the Word of the Lord.

℣ **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse *(John 6:68)* *LSB 156*



Holy Gospel *Matthew 6:19–21*

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.



19"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

℣ **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn 786 "Lord of All Good" *(Rom. 12:1; 1 Peter 4:10-11)*

Sermon Text *1 Tim. 6:17-19; 2 Peter 3:8-13, 17-18; Matt. 6:19-21*

Sermon "God's Stewards Live in the Present and Look to the Future"

1. We Christians are _____ - of here and hereafter.

2. We too easily get focused on here - _____ .

3. Let us instead live not _____ only,

   but also for _____.

4. God gives us _____ , which keep on blessing.

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

Prayers

✢ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✢

Preface *LSB 160*

P The Lord be with you. *(2 Timothy 4:22)*



P Lift up your hearts. *(Colossians 3:1)*

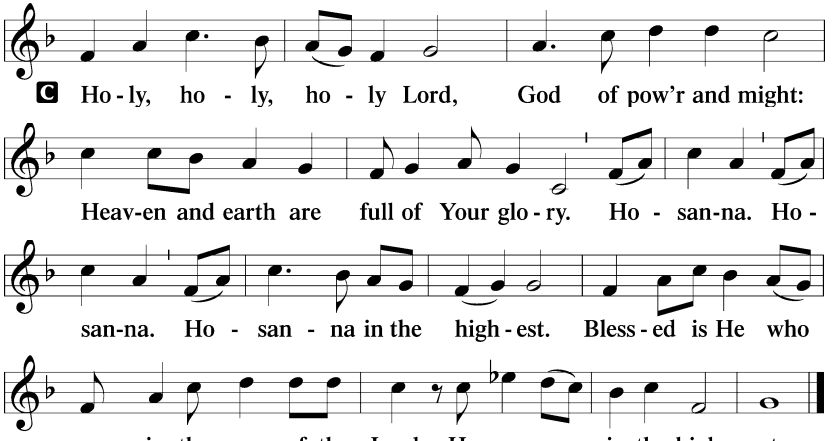


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *(Psalm 136)*



P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9) LSB 161*



Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord *(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)*

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *(1 Corinthians 11:26)*

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

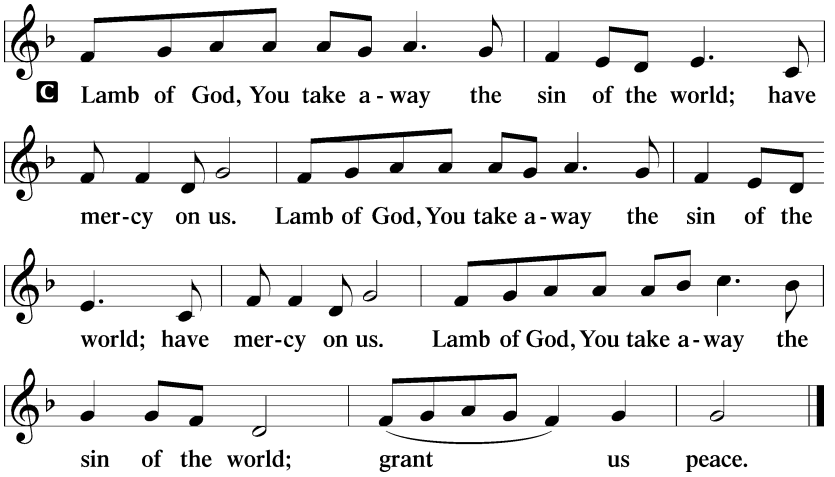
C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Pax Domini ~ *The Peace of the Lord* *(John 20:19)* *LSB 163*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Agnus Dei *Lamb of God (John 1:29)* *LSB 163*



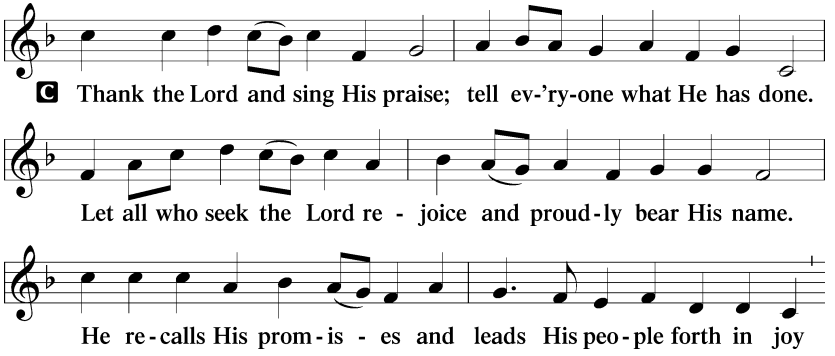
Hymn 634 "The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord"
(Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:27-29 & 10:16; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

Hymn 623 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"
(1 Cor. 10:16-17 & 11:23-26; Romans 5:1-2; Rev. 2:10b)

Hymn 636 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"
(Is. 61:10; Rev. 19:7-8; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 6:35, 48-51, 57-58)

Hymn 617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"
(1 Cor. 11:23-26; Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Peter 2:24)

Thank the Lord *LSB 164*





Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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 ✢ give you peace.



Closing Hymn 826 "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"

(Is. 6:8; Luke 10:2; Matt. 9:37-38; Col. 4:3-4)

Acknowledgments
Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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The flowers that adorn the altar are given by Rick & DeAnn Napper in thanksgiving for the birthdays of Rick and DeAnn's mom, Janice Kumm. To Christ be all the glory for His many blessings to our family.

We have some non-dated 90 day devotionals and magazines from Worship Anew on the table in the Narthex. Please help yourself.

From the Hospitality Crew: Our next meal preparation is February 12th. We are asking for donations of potatoes and any type of Valentine related treats. Thank you for generously blessing us and those in need.

Altar guild will meet Tuesday, February 11, at 6:30 pm, in the Emmaus Room.

Calendar of Events

TODAY ..... February 9th, 2025
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
MON:
TUES:
WED:
Prepare Hospitality Meals ..... 9:00 am
Day School Chapel ..... 11:00 am
THURS:
Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study ..... 9:30 am
Preschool Chapel ..... 9:30 am
FRI:
NEXT SUNDAY ..... February 16th, 2025
Sunday School & Bible Classes ..... 8:30 am
Worship Service ..... 9:30 am
Prepare Welcome Bags in Bethany Room ..... After Service
Adult Basketball ..... 2:30-4:30 pm
Bell Choir Practice (No Adult Choir Practice) ..... 5:00 pm

Things to Remember in Prayer This Week

Thanksgiving: **That our present and our future** is grounded in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Special Concerns:

That as God's stewards we never forget to be thankful in this life, but never forget to look forward to our eternal life in heaven with Jesus.

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.

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

The Board of Evangelism along with Youth and all others interested in helping will be packing and delivering Welcome Bags to new households in the Bremen Community on Sunday, February 16 following Church service. We will meet in the Bethany Room following church and will pack approximately 50 bags then send bags and addresses with volunteers for delivery. This is an easy and interesting way to meet our neighbors inviting them to visit us and giving out information about St. Paul's and our community!
These bags will include information on our Easter services as well as School Roundup. Please pray for those delivering bags and also for our new neighbors! Thank you for all your prayers and donations!

I would like to personally thank the individuals who contributed to the giving tree by purchasing paper and a pencil sharpener for my classroom. The day that the lined paper came, we used up the last piece of paper that we had for a spelling test. Perfect timing!

St. Paul's Women: Save the date: Saturday, March 15, 10:00 am. Join us for a "Service of Psalms and Lententide". Women from the South Bend Zone of LWML will gather with us. **A light luncheon** will follow the prayer service. **(Menu is looking delicious!)**
Everyone is invited to attend and please bring a friend. If you have any questions, contact LWML officers: Elaine Young, Linda Tinkey (until she goes traipsing off to Chile), Barb Middaugh or Jeannette Rettinger.

YOUTH NEWS

SUPER BOWL SUBS: If you ordered a sub, these will be available in the Bethany Room following the church service today. **No cost for the subs -** free will donations appreciated and will support those attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July.

WELCOME BAGS – FEBRUARY 16th : Youth have the wonderful opportunity to work with our Evangelism Board in the assembly and delivery of Welcome Bags to new residents of the Bremen community. Meet after the church service to help out.

SCHOOL CORNER

February is Reading Month and our theme is Mario Cart! The students can earn "power-ups" by reading extra books. They are also reading to earn weekly prizes and a larger, whole school reward. **Please encourage your student to read and/or read with them!** Reading

improves comprehension and vocabulary skills, attention spans, critical and analytical thinking skills, listening skills, and social skills.

Thank you to all who have generously given gifts from the Teacher Wish List Tree! We are so blessed by you! The tree will be up until after Valentine's Day, if you would still like to show appreciation to our teachers and donate a gift. 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!

Our Second Grade Class is now highlighted on the school bulletin board!

Preschool and Kindergarten Round-Up is March 13th, 5-7pm! Please start advertising to your family and friends 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!

SGO Announcement

Please give early to the SGO to receive your tax credit! The state is anticipating heavy use of the tax credits this year and are encouraging donations be made within the next month. The available tax credits start over July 1st. We use the SGO both for elementary school scholarships and Pre-K scholarships, and it has been a great benefit to our families. There is also legislation pending now to increase the ability to use the SGO for our beginner age preschool students. 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.

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 ….

Lexi Andrews (Freshman at Bremen HS)



What do you most enjoy about school?
- English class

What extracurricular activities do you participate in?
- Marching Band

What other hobbies or interests do you have?
- Reading and listening to music

What have been some of your favorite Youth activities here at St. Paul's?
- MS Lock-In and Ice Skating

What are you looking forward to about the National Youth Gathering?
- Listening to so many different people speak about God

How can the congregation support Lexi 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: $14,000 *(approximately)*

Other attendees (and current grade):
Noah Wildauer (12th), Autumn Napper (11th), Jack Wildauer (11th), Izzy Wildauer (10th), 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

Servants for Today's Worship February 9th, 2025

Pastor Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)
Organist: Anita Eichinger
Ushers: Bruce Augustine & Dakota Schmeltz
Acolyte: Avery Cannon
Elder: Terry Miller
Communion Assistant: Jon Rettinger
Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship February 16th, 2025

Pastor Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)
Organist: Ellen Augustine
Ushers: Tyler Schmeltz & Steve Fox
Acolyte: Rachel Rogers
Elder: Dave Burcham
Video Streamer: Ethan Tjernagel