He left the 99 to find me



Luke 15:3-7

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

Paul instructs Timothy on how he is to conduct himself as a servant of Christ Jesus. This is especially important since some individuals within the church have strayed away from the sound doctrine of God (1:3–7) and even destroyed their faith in Christ Jesus because of it (1:19–20). Only when one rightly understands the sound doctrine of God, in terms of both Law and Gospel, can one understand why Paul says what he does in 1:12–17.

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 or by using the QR code.

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." Children are a vital part of our church family. They learn and grow in their faith by regularly worshipping with us. We welcome all children to be actively participating in the service but if for any reason you want or need to take your little one out, there is a Nursery available for your use. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

Parables were used to convey complex ideas and spiritual truths in a way that was easy to understand. The parable of the Lost Sheep *(Luke 15:1-7)* is a simple yet powerful story that is rich in symbolism. The shepherd represents Jesus, who came to seek and save the lost and the sheep represent sinners, who have gone astray, become separated from God and need to be rescued. Each of us are valuable and important to God, and He will go to great lengths to pursue and save us. God's love and mercy are available to everyone, regardless of their past mistakes or failures. This parable shows God's great love for us and also highlights the joy that comes from repentance. The shepherd rejoices when he finds the lost sheep just as all of heaven rejoices when one sinner repents and turns back to God.

Opening Hymn 609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"
(Luke 15:2-4; Luke 5:31-32; Matt. 9:12-13; 1 Tim. 1:15-16; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

✢ 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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.** *(Psalm 124:8)*

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *(Psalm 130:3-4)*

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: **God, be merciful to me, a sinner.** *(Luke 18:13)*

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

✢ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✢

Introit *Psalm 30:2-5; antiphon: vs. 11a, 12b*

P You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
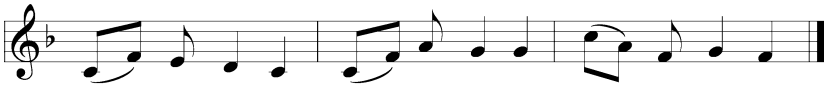
C **O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever!**

P O LORD my God, I cried to You for help,

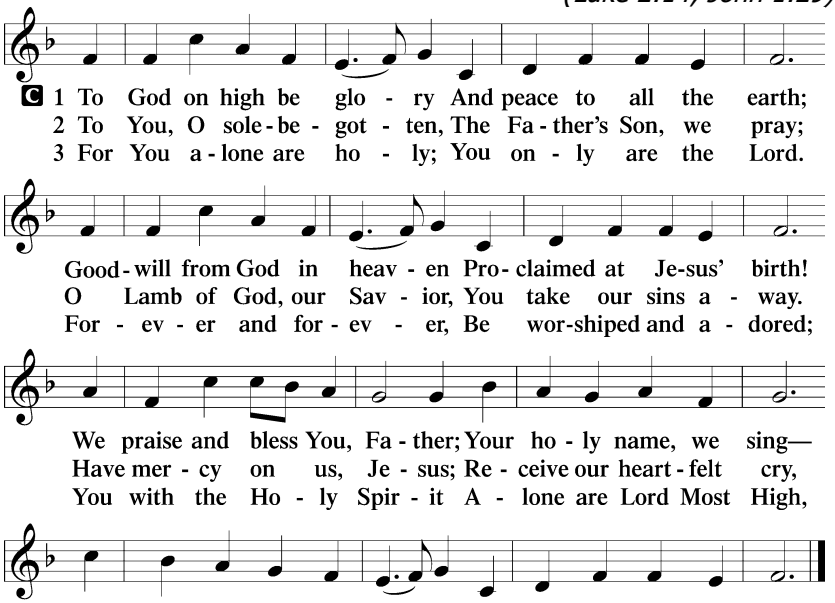
C **and You have healed me.**

℗ O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;
℃ You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
℗ Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints,
℃ and give thanks to His holy name.
℗ For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.
℃ Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
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.
℗ You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
℃ O LORD my God, I will give thanks to Uou forever!

Kyrie ∾ *Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)* *LSB 204*



Gloria in Excelsis ∾ *Glory to God in the Highest* *LSB 204*
(Luke 2:14; John 1:29)



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

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

ℂ **And also with you.**

℗ Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ℂ **Amen.**

Psalm 119:169-176

169 Let my cry come before You, O LORD;
give me understanding according to Your word!
170 Let my plea come before You;
deliver me according to Your word.
171 My lips will pour forth praise,
for You teach me Your statutes.
172 My tongue will sing of Your word,
for all Your commandments are right.
173 Let Your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen Your precepts.
174 I long for Your salvation, O LORD,
and Your law is my delight.
175 Let my soul live and praise You,
and let Your just decrees help me.
176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant,
for I do not forget Your commandments.

℗ This is the Word of the Lord.

ℂ **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Psalm 34:9, 19*

℗ Fear the LORD, you His saints,

ℂ **for those who fear Him lack nothing!**

℗ Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

ℂ **but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

The Epistle Lesson *1 Timothy 1:5–17*

5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 Certain persons, by swerving

from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, [7]desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

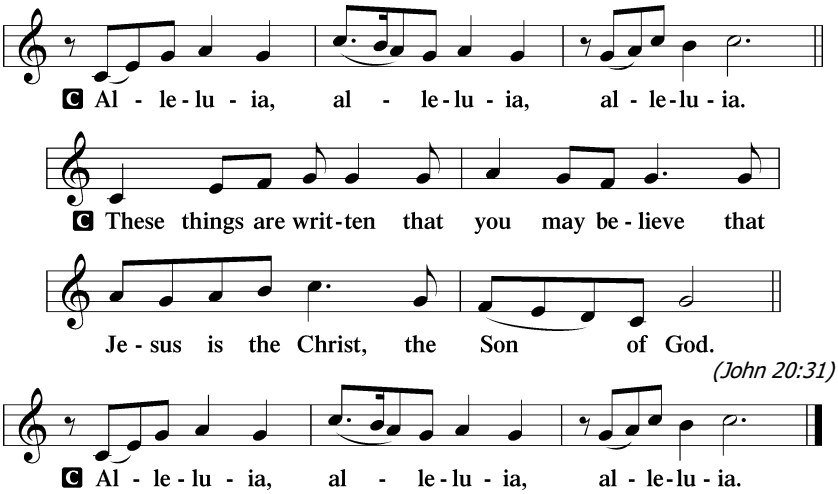
[8]Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, [9]understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, [10]the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, [11]in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

[12]I thank Him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He judged me faithful, appointing me to His service, [13]though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, [14]and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. [15]The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. [16]But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. [17]To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



The Holy Gospel Lesson *Luke 15:1–10*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear
Jesus. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This
Man receives sinners and eats with them."

3 So He told them this parable: 4 "What man of you, having a
hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-
nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he
finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders,
rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends
and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found
my sheep that was lost.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in
heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous
persons who need no repentance.

8 "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin,
does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until
she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her
friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the
coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the
angels of God over one sinner who repents."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C **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 555 "Salvation unto Us Has Come" *vs. 1–5*
(Rom 3:10-31; 5:1-11; Gal. 3:1-25; Eph. 2:1-10)

Sermon "The Sound Doctrine of God" *1 Tim. 1:5-17*

1. Sound doctrine does not come from man but _____ .
2. Sound doctrine centers on the proper understanding of _____ .
3. Sound doctrine centers on the proper understanding of _____ .

Hymn 555 "Salvation unto Us Has Come" *vs. 6–10*
(Rom 3:10-31; 5:1-11; Gal. 3:1-25; Eph. 2:1-10)

Prayers

☩ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ☩

Preface *LSB 208*

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

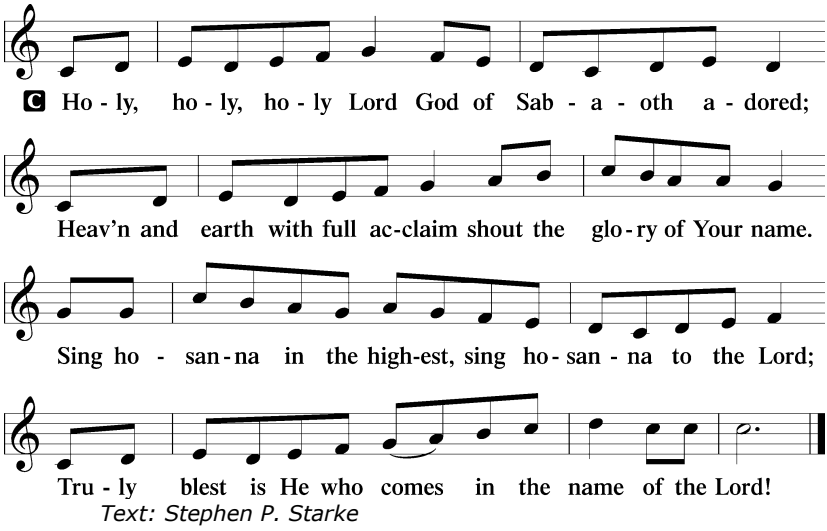
P Lift up your hearts. *(Colossians 3:1)*
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *(Psalm 136)*
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-

begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9) LSB 208*



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.**

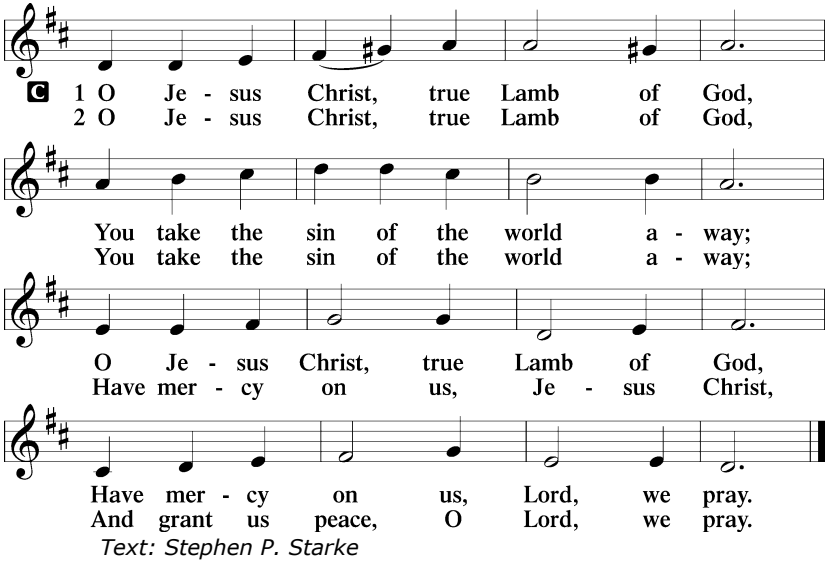
The Words of Our Lord *(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)*

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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei ~ *Lamb of God* *(John 1:29)* *LSB 210*



Text: Stephen P. Starke
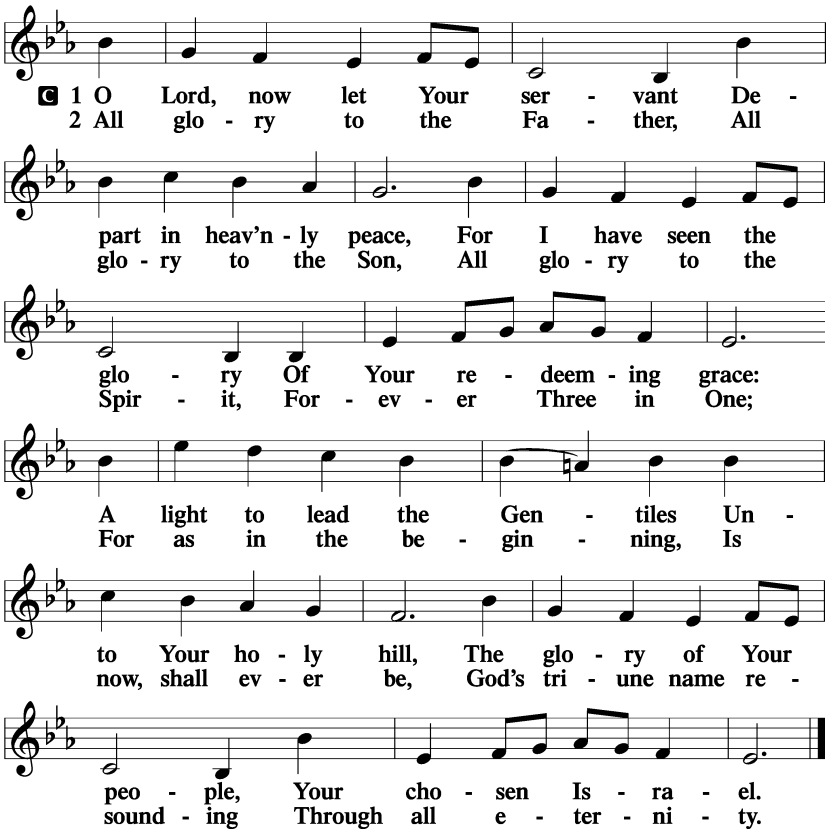
Hymn 628 "Your Table I Approach"
(1 Cor 11:23-29; Luke 5:31-32; Mark 2:17; 1 Cor. 10:16; Rom. 11:33-36)

Hymn 726 "Evening and Morning"
(Psalm 145; Psalm 33; Ps. 40:5; 1 Peter 5:7)

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 588 "Jesus Loves Me"
(Matt. 19:14; Titus 3:4-7; John 15:9; Eph. 3:17b-19)

Nunc Dimittis *Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32)* *LSB 211*



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.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus *Let Us Bless (Psalm 103:1)* *LSB 212*

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

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.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"
(Rom. 5:8-11; 1 John 4:10; Heb. 4:15-16; Eph. 3:17-18b)

Acknowledgments
Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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Cover Art: https://www.pinterest.com/pin/12666442696806476/JennieLeeFondren

Today's Altar flowers are given by Todd and Lori Haug in thanksgiving for their wedding anniversary. We thank Him for our many blessings. May our gracious Lord always be glorified.

"Make a change" September

Please join the St. Paul's Lutheran Women in Mission as we collect our change during September. Based on the story of the widow's mites in Mark 12: 42-43, **every coin collected is used to fund Lutheran organizations, in Indiana and around the world.** (75% of the money collected will stay in the Indiana/Kentucky Zone.) **Some examples of recipients include:** Resurrection Academy, South Bend, Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op, Fort Wayne, and Worship Anew, Fort Wayne. (A complete list is on the Indiana District LWML website.)

There will be a large LWML Mite Box in the Narthex, as well as individual mite boxes for adults and children to take home and use to collect coins. Thank you for joining us in making a change in September!

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: 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.

Calendar of Events

TODAY ..... September 14th, 2025
Potluck Breakfast ..... 8:00 am
Sunday School & Bible Classes ..... 8:30 am
Worship Service with Communion ..... 9:30 am
Bell Choir ..... 5:00 pm
Adult Choir ..... 6:00 pm
MON:
Board Meetings ..... 7:00 pm
Grades 5-8 Camp Lutherhaven Over Night .....
TUES:
Grades K-4 Camp Lutherhaven Day Trip .....
WED:
Men's Bible Study Breakfast ..... 6:30 am
Day School Chapel ..... 11:00 am
LifeLight ..... 6:45-8:15 pm
THURS:
Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study ..... 9:30 am
Pastor at Elder-Haus ..... 10:00 am
FRI:
Preschool Chapel ..... 9:30 am
NEXT SUNDAY ..... September 21st, 2025
Sunday School & Bible Classes ..... 8:30 am
Worship Service ..... 9:30 am
Bell Choir ..... 5:00 pm
Adult Choir ..... 6:00 pm

The Evangelism committee is collecting food for **Grace Food Pantry**. There are cards in the Narthex with Grace's requested items. Items purchased should be returned to the Narthex table by Sunday, September 28th. All items will be delivered to the food pantry the week of the 28th. (If you have reusable grocery bags that you would like to donate along with grocery items, these are always appreciated by the food pantry.)

LWML Sunday is October 5th. This Sunday service will be highlighting LWML's mission to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. At 2:00 pm on October 5th there will be a rally at Redeemer, South Bend. Along with fellowship with ladies from the other churches in our zone. There will be a speaker, craft, and a meal. More information will be coming soon. **All ladies of St. Paul's are invited** and I hope you will join us as we encourage one another in Christ.

Things to Remember in Prayer This Week

Thanksgiving: **For the sound doctrine of God** which centers on a proper understanding of both the Law and the Gospel.

Special Concerns:
That we may understand the importance of sound doctrine and in what it consists of: Law and Gospel.
For Pastor Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores family and **Pastor Micah Wildauer family** and their work in foreign missions.
That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.
For our country and her leaders.
For those who serve in their vocations of soldier, policemen & firemen.
For the Lord's grace, healing, and protection for our Christian brothers and sisters who are displaced, suffering, or being persecuted in America and throughout the world. **We must shine the Gospel light!**

Worship Anew can be viewed on Sunday mornings at 11:30 am on: the local CW station-channel WCWW-TV 25 out of South Bend, Dish Channel 266 or Direct TV channel 377. For you travelers, you can view anytime at <worshipanew.org>

If you would like to participate in a "Small Group Bible Study," please sign up on the designated sheets located in the church narthex or contact the church office (574-546-2332). Further questions can be directed to Bd. of Christian Ed. members: Wendy Coxey, Barb Middaugh, Jeanette Rettinger. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!

YOUTH NEWS

Join us for Youth Night! Students 4th grade - HS are invited to Youth Night on Wednesday nights, in September, from 7:00-8:00 pm at St. Paul's. Activities include devotions, games, and snacks. Please join us and invite your friends too!

Coming up - Campfire, hayride, cookout – 6th grade through HS, **Saturday, September 27th,** at Spicher's house. More details to come!

Look for more Youth Group information via our "St. Paul's Youth" GroupMe chat (*If you'd like to be added, let us know) or contact Youth Board Director Scott Hundt with any questions.

Rachel Rogers, Josie & Wyatt Wildauer, Emiliano Mejia, and Harmony Prior are currently at Camp Lutherhaven attending a **Jr. High Youth Rally**. Please pray that they are filled with a renewed zeal for the Lord as they enjoy this time of fellowship in the Word and with each other.

Cultivate Food Rescue is hosting a Thrivent Joy of Giving Consultation on Sept. 26th in Granger. A flyer is on the "Check It Out" board next to the school secretary's office. Cultivate Food Rescue works to reduce hunger and food waste in northern Indiana by recovering excess, quality food and redistributing it to school children, food pantries, shelters, and more. Through strategic partnerships, we are a leader in perishable food rescue, procurement, redistribution, and education in order to meet the nutritional needs of communities. See their website for more information about this ministry at https://cultivatefoodrescue.com/about-us/
LWML will be hosting Todd Zeltwanger at our February meeting to share with us the impact of this ministry. Mark your calendars to join us!

SCHOOL CORNER

We are looking for volunteers to read with students, help with math, etc. If you are interested in volunteering in the school, please see Nathan Miller or one of our teachers. School volunteers must have background check on file or completed.

Please note September's Star Students on the bulletin board! These students, nominated by the staff, have exemplified one or all of the three "Rs"- Respect, Responsibility, and Righteousness. New Star Students will be highlighted each month.

The students will be going to Camp Lutherhaven tomorrow (the 15th) and Tuesday! Grades 5th-8th Grade will get to spend the night Monday, and the rest of the students will follow on Tuesday. We are excited for a fun, outdoor day!

Preschool, kindergarten, and 1st Grade will be going to chapel at the Whitlock Friday, the 19th.

Enrollment is ongoing (especially in Preschool), so if you know someone looking for a new school experience, Beginner Preschool through 8th Grade, encourage them to look into St. Paul's! 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. *Scholarships are even available for Pre-K!* Word of mouth is the best form of advertisement, so please encourage your family/friends to check us out!**

Please see updates to the SGO announcement!

SGO Announcement

Update to the new federal tax credit:

- This is a 100% Federal Tax Credit, up to $1,700 per taxpayer.
- Taxpayers can begin making donations on January 1, 2027.

Taxpayers would receive the Federal Tax Credit when completing taxes in the **spring of 2028 (individuals, not businesses). Further details are available on the bulletin board.**

Other benefits to donors-

- **LSGO is MATCHING donations from new donors up to $1000 per donor ($5000 per school)!**
- **Universal Charitable Deduction has been restored! Taxpayers can receive a $1000 Federal Charitable Donation, even if they can't itemize, beginning January 1, 2026.**
- **Taxpayers still receive a 50% state tax credit!**

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, and a 100% federal tax credit for individuals up to $1700 (starting in 2027). 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 September 14th, 2025

Pastor Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)
Organist: Ellen Augustine
Ushers: Curt Nielsen & Tyler Schmeltz
Acolyte: Kellan Guse
Elder: Mike Gumz
Communion Assistant: Larry Britt
Video Streamer: Tyler/Dakota Schmeltz

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship September 21st, 2025

Pastor Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)
Organist: Anita Eichinger
Ushers: Todd Haug & Bruce Augustine
Acolyte: Kayli & Cory Miller
Elder: Terry Miller
Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt