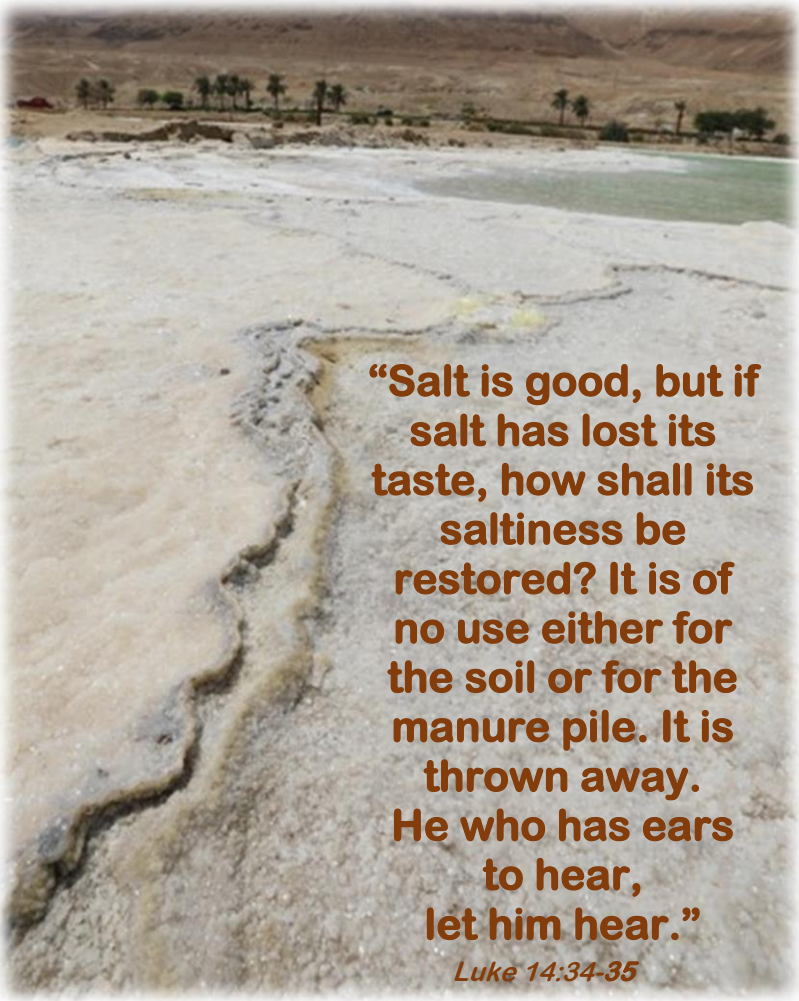


St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
605 South Center Street
Bremen, Indiana 46506
574.546.2332
stpaulsbremen.church

To love the Lord, to obey His voice, and to hold fast to Him requires grace. It requires the gifts of Word and Sacrament and the Holy Spirit who works through these means to create and preserve faith in our hearts and to anchor us always in Christ and His perfect atoning work for us.

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.

In Luke 14:34-35, Jesus is calling us to count the cost, to "Take up the cross". Jesus himself has gone to death **for you** and has won the Father's favor **for you** and has made a place in heaven **for you**. He's saying that when you are a Christian, you are at war. You are at war against the world. You are at war with the devil. You're at war even against your own flesh. Being willing to suffer and die for the name of Jesus is the saltiness of the Christian. If salt has lost its saltiness, it's useless. So the Lord is calling us to be salty Christians, that is, to be a preservative in the world. So, how is it that we serve as salt? This is how: that we are unafraid. Unafraid to confess the name of Jesus, no matter what the consequence is. Do you see how different that is from the world? The world wants us to be afraid of everything but in Christ, we need not fear because He has overcome the world. So stand firm and follow Him.

Portions from sermon by Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller – Sept. 4, 2022

Opening Hymn 905 "Come, Thou Almighty King"
(1 Tim. 6:14-16; John 1:14; 14:5-26; Rev. 4:8)

✢ 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.**

✢ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✢

Introit *Psalm 119:28-32; antiphon: v. 27*

P Make me understand the way of Your precepts,

C **and I will meditate on Your wondrous works.**

P My soul melts away for sorrow;

C **strengthen me according to Your word!**

P Put false ways far from me
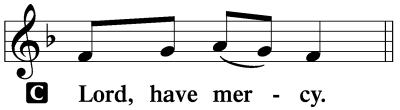
C **and graciously teach me Your law!**

P I have chosen the way of faithfulness;

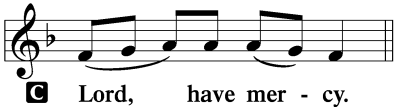
C **I set Your just decrees before me.**
P I cling to Your testimonies, O LORD;
C **let me not be put to shame!**
P I will run in the way of Your commandments
C **when You enlarge my heart!**
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P Make me understand the way of Your precepts,
C **and I will meditate on Your wondrous works.**

Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)* *LSB 152*
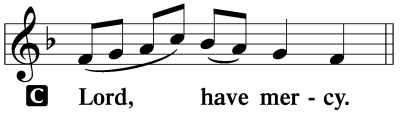
P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



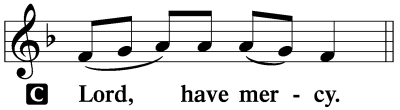
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



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.
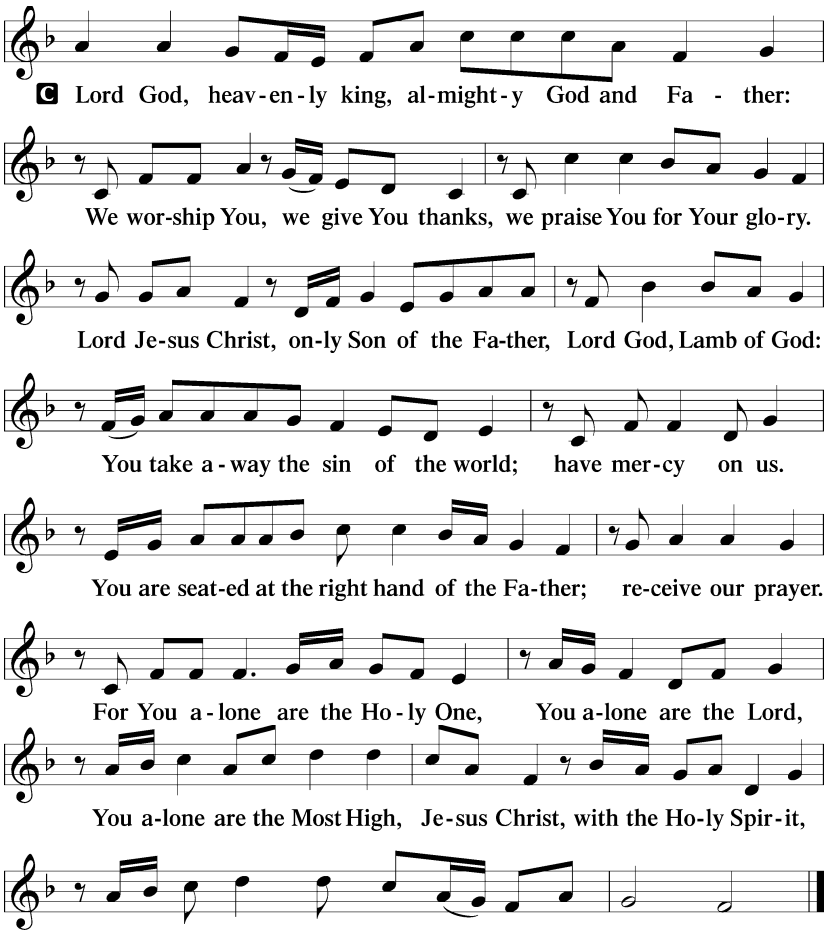


P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
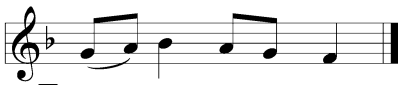


Gloria in Excelsis ∾ *Glory to God in the Highest* *LSB 154*
(Luke 2:14; John 1:29)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
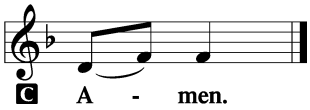


Salutation and Collect of the Day

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



P Let us pray.
O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the

cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Old Testament Lesson *Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

15"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.
16If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in His ways, and by keeping His commandments and His statutes and His rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.
17But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, 18I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. 19I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, 20loving the LORD your God, obeying His voice and holding fast to Him, for He is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Psalm 34:9, 19*

P Fear the LORD, you His saints,
C **for those who fear Him lack nothing!**
P Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
C **but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

The Epistle Lesson *Philemon 1–21*

1Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker 2and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:
3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, 5because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, 6and I pray that the sharing of your

faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. 7For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

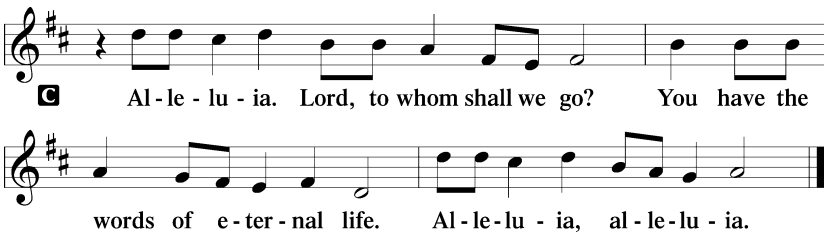
8Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, 9yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— 10I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. 11(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) 12I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. 13I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, 14but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. 15For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, 16no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

17So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. 18If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. 19I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. 20Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

21Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.
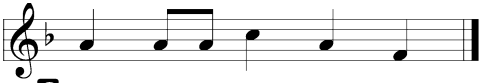
℗ This is the Word of the Lord.
℄ **Thanks be to God.**

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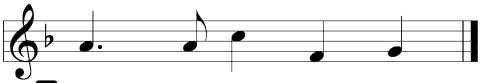


The Holy Gospel Lesson *Luke 14:25–35*

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.



25Now great crowds accompanied Jesus, and He turned and said to
them, 26"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father
and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and
even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27Whoever does not bear
his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28For which
of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count
the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29Otherwise, when
he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin
to mock him, 30saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to
finish.' 31Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war,
will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten
thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?
32And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a
delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33So therefore, any one of
you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple.
34"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness
be restored? 35It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure
pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

C 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 688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake"
(1 Peter 2:21-25, Matt. 16:24, John 8:12; Matt. 10:38-39)

Sermon "Following Jesus" *Luke 14:25-35*

1. To be a disciple of Christ is _____ Him alone (v 25–27).

2. To be a disciple of Christ comes _____ (v 28–33).

3. To be a disciple of Christ means being the salt the Holy Spirit uses _____ (v 34–35).

Hymn 660 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"
(Luke 9:23-261 John 5:4-5; I Cor. 15:25, 55-57; Eph. 6:11-18)

Prayers

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.**

Hymn 918 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

Day School Choir "Edelweiss Benediction"

May the Lord, Mighty God,
Bless and keep you forever,
Grant you peace, perfect peace,
Hope for every endeavor.

Lift up your eyes and see His face,
And His grace forever.
May the Lord, Mighty God,
Bless and keep you forever.
Amen

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>

Calendar of Events

TODAY ..... September 7th, 2025
Sunday School & Bible Classes ..... 8:30 am
Worship Service ..... 9:30 am
Scrip Day ..... After Service
Bell Choir ..... 5:00 pm
Adult Choir ..... 6:00 pm
MON:
PTL Meeting ..... 6:00 pm
TUES:
WED:
Prepare Hospitality Meals ..... 9:00 am
Day School Chapel ..... 11:00 am
LifeLight ..... 6:45-8:15 pm
THURS:
Preschool Chapel ..... 9:30 am
Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study ..... 9:30 am
2nd Thursday Bible Study ..... 6:00 pm
FRI:
Euchre ..... 7:00-9:00 pm
SAT:
NEXT SUNDAY ..... 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

The Evangelism committee will be holding our next food ingathering for Grace Food Pantry from September 7th through September 28th. There will be cards in the Narthex beginning on the 7th 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.)

Choir rehearsals for bells and adult choir resume this evening. Bell choir at 5:00 and adult choir (anyone High School and up) at 6:00 - both in the balcony. We welcome new members to join us old timers as we prepare to worship our Lord with music. If you have questions contact Ellen Augustine. Come join us as we ring and sing to the Lord!

"Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord." (Psalm 100:1)

From the Hospitality Crew: Parish Fellowship would like to thank the congregation for their support of our mission to make meals for shut-ins. Our September meals will be **Chicken Enchiladas**. We will be in need of: 16 oz cans of refried beans, 8" flour tortillas, 15 oz cans of mild enchilada sauce, and bags of shredded cheddar cheese. **Thank you very much!**

LifeLight begins this Wednesday, Sept. 10th and runs through Nov. 5th. Each Wednesday from 6:45-8:15 pm we will meet to study 1st & 2nd Kings. Please plan to join us for this Bible study. Preregistration forms are available on the table in the Narthex. Preregistration is encouraged but not "mandatory"- we would love to have you.

"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!

Evangelism Board will be sharing excerpts from the tract "What Lutherans Teach". Refresh your Biblical knowledge to better share your faith with others!

The Bible-Lutherans teach that the Bible in all its words is the Word of God; that, consequently, all the facts related in it are absolutely true; that it is without error; that it interprets itself; that it is the only Divine truth known on earth; that it should be diligently heard and studied; and that it will save all who trustfully accept it. References to look up! 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:13; John 5:39; Luke 11:28.

Things to Remember in Prayer This Week

Thanksgiving: **That we can be disciples** of Christ with courage and strength.

Special Concerns:
That we, by the strength Christ gives in His Word and Sacrament, have courage to follow Him despite the great cost.
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!**

Men, are you looking for a weekend to retreat from life's busyness and strengthen your faith? Then Lutherhaven's **IRON SHARPENS IRON** men's retreat is for you! Be encouraged by an engaging Biblical speaker and sectional leaders with unique Christian perspectives. Enjoy amazing activities, great food, and opportunities for fellowship with like-minded men. Be prepared to have a blast, find restful retreat, deeply reflect, and leave strengthened in your faith.
Cost will range from: $49-$98 per person depending on lodging choices t*hanks to a grant from The Lutheran Foundation. Register by September 5th and get a free t-shirt.*

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Nights are back! Students 4th grade - HS are invited to Youth Nights 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, 7993 First Rd, Bremen. 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.

"Small Group Bible Study"-In response to requests from a recent congregational survey, the Board of Christian Education would like to help establish several "Small Group Bible Studies" which will allow participants to meet in a more casual and intimate setting. Following are a set of potential guidelines designed to organize such groups.

1. The chosen Bible study is meant to create fellowship, discussion, and the ability to get to know one another. Bible study topics should receive approval from the pastor.
2. The gathering time should last approximately 90 minutes, allowing time for
   a. Bible study and reflection of God's Word. Singing can also be included.
   b. Prayers and closing thoughts
   c. Snacks and casual fellowship.
3. The group should consist of 6-12 participants. If it grows larger, it should find a comfortable way to divide.
4. The meeting place can be rotated, making sure that no one is forced to host and allowing those with the gift of hospitality to use that gift. A local establishment might also be selected as an alternate place to meet.
5. Meet, at minimum, one time per month, noting your meeting time and place on the church calendar, allowing others to join your group.
6. Consider what the group can do to bring people from the area in, how it can minister to the community, and how it can be of assistance in the ministry of our congregation.

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 along a friend!

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.
People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.
Love them anyway.
Love them well and give them Jesus.

SCHOOL CORNER

Thank you, students, for singing in church today! It's such a blessing to hear your beautiful voices!

PTL meeting is tomorrow, Monday the 8th, 6:00pm, in the Jerusalem Room. All parents and grandparents are invited to come!

If you are interested in volunteering in the school, please see Nathan Miller or one of our teachers. We are looking for volunteers to read with students, help with math, etc.

We will be posting "Students of the Month" soon! These students, nominated by the staff, have exemplified one or all of the three "Rs"- Respect, Responsibility, and Righteousness. Watch the bulletin board for those students!

Please see updates to the SGO announcement!

It is not too late to enroll, 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!**

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!**

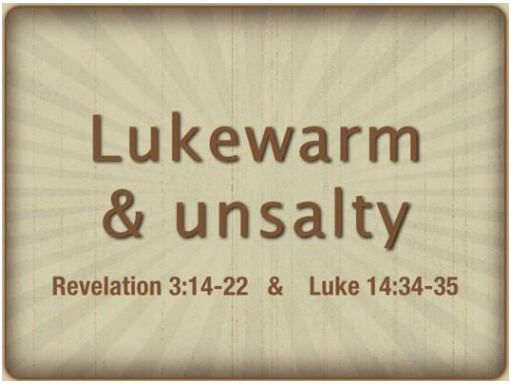
We use the SGO both for elementary school scholarships and Pre-K scholarships, and it has been a great benefit to our families. Please continue to give, and receive the tax credit and deduction for your donations! **Now, there is a link to donate to the LSGO on the church's website under the School drop-down 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.

Acknowledgments
Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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Stand firm and follow Jesus.
Do not be…



Servants for Today's Worship September 7th, 2025

Pastor Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)
Organist: Anita Eichinger
Ushers: Joe Hughes & Jim Mitchell
Acolyte: Emiliano Mejia
Elder: Terry Miller
Video Streamer: Ethan Tjernagel

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship September 14th, 2025

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