

And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.”

John 9:39a



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
605 South Center Street
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stpaulsbremen.church

In the season of Lent, we follow Jesus, moving ever closer to His Passion and cross. By listening to His Word and receiving the Sacrament of His body and blood, we learn to see Him rightly: as not merely a good man, not only a prophet and miracle-worker, not even simply God, but the God who is a man and was crucified for us and for the world.

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.

Do you see? You can be physically blind and still see spiritual truth; but if you are spiritually blind you don’t even see the physical things properly. You see a miracle involving spit and mud as nothing more than the breaking of some manmade law as the Pharisees did. But when God opens your eyes through His Word, then you can truly see. Jesus used a man’s blindness to display His glory and love. He gave the man both physical sight and spiritual sight. Jesus can and does use calamities and disasters for our good. Look to the cross. There you see God’s Son dying in your place. There you see how much it cost God to cure your spiritual blindness and answer your prayer to deliver you from evil (*Matthew 6:13*). In Jesus we find the justice of God which blinds those who see and gives sight – and salvation – to the blind. We see that Jesus truly is the Light of the World.

∞ Sermon excerpt: Risen Savior Lutheran Church, McFarland, WI, March 19, 2023 ∞

Bell Choir "Go to Dark Gethsemene"

Opening Hymn 571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"
(John 3:16; Titus 3:4-7; 2 Tim. 1:9; Matt. 9:2)

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
(Matthew 28:19b)

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
(Hebrews 10:22)

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth. *(Psalm 124:8)*

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *(Psalm 32:5)*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 "Your Still Small Voice"

Your still, small voice, Lord, let me hear it,
Your still, small voice in this frantic world.
Your still, small voice, calm my restless spirit;
Speak to me until I find my rest in You.
Your still, small voice, Lord, let me hear it,
Your still, small voice in this troubled world.
Your still, small voice, calm my restless spirit;

Speak to me until I find my rest in You.
 Lord, I heard You not in the thunder, nor the fire,
 nor the whirl-wind's blast; But perhaps in silent wonder,
 You will touch my life at last.
 Your still, small voice, Lord, let me hear it,
 Your still, small voice in this troubled world.
 Your still, small voice, calm my restless spirit;
 Speak to me until I find my rest in You.
 In the quiet peace of the morning,
 when the day is fresh and clear;
 speak to me, Lord, I will listen, call to me and I will hear,
 I will hear, Your still small voice. Lord, let me hear it,
 Your still small voice in this frantic world.
 Your still small voice, calm my restless spirit;
 Speak to me until I find my rest in You, 'til I find my rest in You.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 27:4-6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15

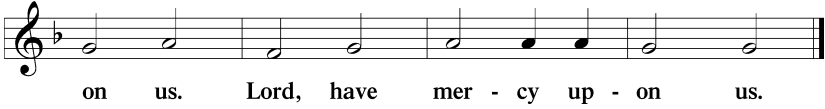
- P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
C **for He will pluck my feet out of the net.**
P One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
C **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.**
P For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;
C **He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.**
P And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
C **I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**
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 My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
C **for He will pluck my feet out of the net.**

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

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through 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

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴For a long time I have held My peace;
I have kept still and restrained Myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.
¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.
¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,

who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
"You are our gods."

¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!

¹⁹Who is blind but My servant,
or deaf as My messenger whom I send?

Who is blind as My dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?

²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

²¹The LORD was pleased, for His righteousness' sake,
to magnify His law and make it glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

P who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame,

C **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

The Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel Lesson

John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



G Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹As Jesus passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. ²And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then He anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." . . .

³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped Him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, 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 904 "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

(John 6:63-68; 8:31b-32; Heb 4:12; 1 Cor. 2:14)

Sermon "Eyes to See"

John 9:1-41

1. Jesus gave _____ new eyes to see.
2. Jesus gives _____ new eyes to see.

Hymn 744 "Amazing Grace"

(Eph. 2:1, 4-9; John 1:14, 16-17; Heb. 4:16; Rom. 3:22b-24)

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.

P The Lord be with you.



☩ And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus ∞ *Let Us Bless (Psalm 103:1)*

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.



G Thanks be to God.

Benediction (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



G A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn 423 "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

(*Matt. 15:29-30; Is. 53:4-5, 11*)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Cover Art: thebiblehymes.com

The flowers that adorn the altar are given by Rick & DeAnn Napper in thanksgiving for Colton & Wyatt's birthdays. All praise to our Lord who blesses us in all things!

We will be hosting a blood drive through The South Bend Medical Foundation following the service today. Walk-ins are welcome!

St. Paul's has been accepted to the CPH Resource Program. Through this program, we receive discounts on many Concordia Publishing items and free shipping for orders over \$60.00. There are "Spring Picks" flyers on the table in the Narthex. If you would like to order something, please fill out the order form and get the form and payment to the church office. If I have the orders on or before March 22nd then there is a good chance it could be here before Easter. Make checks payable to St. Paul's and do not add tax as we are tax exempt.

New Portals of Prayer and Hope-Full Living devotionals for April-June as well as the Spring LWML Quarterlies are available in the tract rack in the Narthex.

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 2026 are as follows: 3/18, 4/1, 4/15, 4/29, 5/13, 5/27, 6/10, 6/24, 7/8, 7/22, 8/5, 8/19, 9/2, 9/16, 10/14, 10/28, 11/11, 11/25, 12/9.

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

Please join us Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm in the Bethany Room for a potluck and then stay for our 3rd Lenten Worship Service at 7:00 pm.

Upcoming Lenten Meals – Wednesdays at 6:00 pm:

- March 18th – Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread
- March 25th – Potluck with White Chili

All donations from the meals will go to Trinity Hope Haitian Feeding Program. Trinity Hope is dedicated to feeding over 60,000 children daily through Christian Schools, providing nutritious meals and sharing the Gospel.

The ingathering for Grace Food Pantry runs through March 15th.

There are papers on the table in the Narthex with items most needed by the pantry. If you are able, please help us be a light by providing to those in need as we look forward to celebrating our risen Lord this Easter.

From the Hospitality Crew: Our next meal preparation will be this Wednesday, March 18th at 9:00 am. We will be making lasagna and are asking for donations of lasagna noodles, spaghetti sauce, mozzarella and parmesan cheeses, hamburger, cottage cheese, and fruit cups. Thank you.

Once again, the Board of Christian Ed is in need of individually wrapped candy donations to fill over 1000 eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Donations may be placed in the designated bin located in the Narthex. Thank you for your support!

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..... March 15th, 2026

Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service.....	9:30 am
Blood Drive.....	11:00 am-3:00 pm
Adult Basketball.....	3:00-5:00 pm
Bell Choir.....	5:00 pm
Adult Choir	6:00 pm

MON:

Board Meetings.....	7:00 pm
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TUES:

Parent/Teacher Conferences	3:15-6:00 pm
Elders' Meeting.....	6:30 pm

WED:

Men's Bible Study Breakfast	6:30 am
Prepare Hospitality Meals	9:00 am
Day School Chapel	11:00 am
Lenten Meal – Potluck.....	6:00 pm
Worship Service.....	7:00 pm

THURS:

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study.....	9:30 am
Pastor @ Elder-Haus.....	10:00 am
Parent/Teacher Conferences	6:00-8:00 pm

FRI:

Preschool Chapel	9:30 am
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SAT:

NEXT SUNDAY..... March 22nd, 2026

Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service with Communion.....	9:30 am
Bell Choir.....	5:00 pm
Adult Choir	6:00 pm

Please Make a Note: If you use the facilities after normal church and school hours, please make sure that all lights are off and all doors are locked and closed properly. Lately doors have been found improperly closed or unlocked allowing access into the facilities. Also, lights have been left on. If you leave a room, turn off the light. If only a half dozen people are meeting, don't turn every light in the building on. **Close the doors to the Sanctuary after everyone is out because we have zone heating and it overtaxes the furnaces.** These are all little things that make a big difference and show our attitude to this facility God has given us. **This is God's house and we are to be good stewards of it.**

Things to Remember in Prayer This Week

Thanksgiving: For Jesus who gives the blind new eyes to see.

For God's blessings on the food to be delivered to Grace Food Pantry.

Special Concerns:

That we would learn to see Jesus rightly and grow in understanding of the works of God in our lives despite the reality of suffering we see so immediately.

For the Pastor Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores family.

For the Micah Wildauer family as their ministry is temporarily refocused.

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 soldiers and first responders.

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!**

The Playground Committee met last Tuesday. Several great ideas were discussed for creating a play/learning/community space **that will create many opportunities for use by the school and congregation.**

Beth Miller and Matt VanSoest (2 extremely talented children of God – we are truly blessed to have them.) will be putting together a couple of options for us to “weigh in” on. Look for more information in the next few weeks on when that will be happening. The more input we have, the better we can honor God with the gifts He has given us.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

SCHOOL CORNER

Thank you to all who helped us prepare for the Preschool/Kindergarten Round-Up!

Enrollment for 2026-27 is OPEN! *Please encourage family and friends to learn more about St. Paul's!* We offer a Christian alternative to education for Preschool through 8th Grade, 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!

Congratulations, Wyatt Wildauer for placing 3rd in 6th Grade, and Kellan Guse for placing 4th in 8th Grade, at the Valpo Math Competition!

Parent/Teacher Conferences are this week! Please continue to pray for our families and staff as we work together to spiritually and academically train our students.

Spring Musical practices have started! **Please mark your calendars for the musical “iAM” on May 1st, 7:00pm!** Visit the App Store with students as they learn some different names for God and how He communicates with us! It’s lively and fun- “iAM”!

Please see the article about the Playground Committee in the bulletin. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Beth Miller, 260-519-2884.

Please note this month’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.

Please see updates to the SGO announcement!

SGO Announcement

The donations do not have to end at the end of the year! Donations for 2026 have started! See all the benefits below and please encourage businesses to donate.

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. (The Choice

Scholarships for Kindergarten through 8th Grade only provide for 75% of tuition. SGO supports the rest.) 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.

YOUTH NEWS

Each Wednesday through Lent - Youth will be assisting with the Lenten Meals on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm before the Worship Service.

Easter Breakfast – Youth in grades 6-8, please let us know if you can help with the Easter Breakfast on **April 5th at 8:00 am**. We need help with serving and clean-up!

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 at 574-209-2084** with any questions.

Servants for Today's Worship March 15th, 2026

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

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Paul Wonnacott & Larry Winterboer

Acolyte: Emiliano Mejia

Elder: Jon Rettinger

Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott

Servants for Next Week's Worship March 22nd, 2026

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

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Wayne Spicher & Ben Andrews

Acolyte: Rachel Rogers

Elder: Larry Britt

Communion Assistant: Jon Rettinger

Video Streamer: Ethan Tjernagel

St. Paul's Eggciting Easter Party

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, March 28, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
605 S. Center St. in Bremen
Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Join our "egg-citing" egg hunt
Hear the Easter story
Sing songs
Make an Easter craft
Enjoy refreshments

2-year-olds to Grade 3

*Parents are welcome to attend.
Bring an Easter basket or bag.*

