Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School – Bremen, IN

The EPISTLE July 2026

From Pastor Wonnacott's Keyboard:

Address:

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vimeo.com/stpaulsbremen

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School: 8:30 am

Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Neil Wonnacott

Office Hours: M, W, TH & F

8:30 – 11:30 am

We truly are a blessed people living in the family of God, who has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We live in our land with the freedom to worship the True God, but there are those who worship false gods, as in Biblical times. Nothing has changed when it comes to people.

So often you hear of the American Experiment, the foundational idea that describes the way our country is governed. We as Christians know and believe that the United States of America was given to us by God, to bring glory to Him and to benefit our neighbors near and far.

Our country doesn't have a perfect past and is experiencing many challenges in the present. Why? Sin was in our country and in its people long before it came to be known as these United States. How can this change? We need to show the way of repentance, forgiveness, and love that comes to all believers through the Son, Jesus.

Meditate upon the following Bible verse and share it with others, especially those in office:

14 *If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14).*

Every day God and His Word are pushed aside to make room for sinful living and wicked practices. We need to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves (the baby in the womb; children; the elderly; those with special needs). Why should we do that? Because we should put God first and our neighbor second. We should show our neighbors the love of Jesus, the one and only Savior of all people, red, yellow, black, and white. They are precious in His sight!

Let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us restore this country to a land of believers serving the one true God. May He continue to bless us as a people and as a country! God bless America!

THE DEADLINE FOR AUGUST EPISTLE IS JULY 2OTH!!! Epistle articles, comments, ideas may be deposited in the epistle box in the Narthex mail slots or e-mailed to Eric Thornton at firemanet@yahoo.com. I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

Church Office Hours

The hours for the church office are Monday through Friday from

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and also possibly working from home on some Fridays.

Ushers: It is very important that you find your own replacement if you are not going to be able to usher during your assigned time. Please take the time to do this so that we always have ushers available to assist our members and visitors.

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>

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 front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose "e-tithing" by having a weekly deposit to St Paul's from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

Euchre Party is Friday, July 24 from 7-9:00 pm in the Bethany Room. Anyone 16 and older can join us for fun and fellowship, and please bring a snack to share. Come and bring a friend!

Pastor Wonnacott and Family on vacation July 13th through July 20th.

You are invited to the Bible Study sponsored by the Elderhaus of Nappanee on July 23rd at 10:00 am. This is a very lively study of God's Word for people 55 and older led by Pastor Wonnacott. The Bible study location is at 500 North Nappanee Street in Nappanee.

You are also invited to a Bible Study at Oakhaven on July 9th and July 23rd in the activities room at 2:00 pm. Another opportunity to study God's Word in our community!



Meet Your Missionaries!

Pastor Rafael, Deaconess Jamielynn, Elena and Miranda Flores, our missionaries to Chile, are coming to town! Join them on Sunday, July 26th, during 8:30 am Bible class as they share about God's work through His church in Chile and around Latin America. Jamielynn is celebrating 10 years as a LCMS missionary this summer! The family has been in Chile now for almost 2 years after serving first in the Dominican Republic. They would love to see you there! Email them at jamielynn.tinkey@lcms.org. Download their prayer card at lcms.org/Tinkey.

Preschool Postings

Summer days are flying by, so before you know it we'll be getting our classrooms ready and preparing to meet excited students. Let your family and friends know that we still have room in our Beginner class. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Evangelism Board

The Evangelism Board is sharing excerpts from the tract "What Lutherans Teach". Refresh your Biblical knowledge to better share your faith with others! This month we look at 'Baptism' and 'The Lord's Supper'.

Lutherans teach that Baptism is a divinely instituted washing of regeneration; that it is intended for old and young without exception and may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersing; and that by it all who in faith receive this sacrament are given the grace of God, forgiveness of sins, and the promise of eternal life. References: Matthew 28:19; Titus 3:5; Mark 10:14; Acts 16:15; Hebrews 10:22; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16.

Lutherans teach that the body, and blood of Jesus Christ are truly present in and with the bread and wine in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, are taken by all who eat and drink at the Lord's Table, are received by the believing Christian for the strengthening of his faith and his growth in godliness, and should be given to those only who have professed their Christian faith. References: Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:26-29; Matthew 7:6.

Up coming Events from Evangelism: On July 12th in church the board will be handing out names to pray specifically for from out shut-in list and prayer page. If you are willing please take a paper with 2-3 names on it and pray specifically for those names. If an address is included and you are willing to send a card of encouragement please do so.

Our next Welcome Bag delivery will be on Sunday, August 2nd. We will be packing and delivering bags to our newest Bremen neighbors. Evangelism, Youth and the congregation are all encouraged to participate. Watch for more information in the Bulletin!

School Corner

The School Office is open during the summer, 9:00am-1:00pm. Additional hours for enrollment/scholarship appointments are available upon request. The office will be closed July 6-13th, while the school secretary is on vacation!

We need to replenish our SGO account! **This year, we provided over $53,000 in scholarships from the SGO Fund!** As Choice only provides for 77%-83% of tuition costs, we use the SGO to **"close the gap"** between our tuition fee and the Choice Scholarship. This has enabled our families, most of whom have financial concerns, to receive education at St. Paul's for nominal cost. **Please consider donating to the SGO!** Donors receive a 50% state tax credit and deduction. More information is available in the tract rack and can be found at ***https://lutheransgo.org/donate***.

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! Families can contact the school office, 574-546-2790, for registration information and a tour. Information can also be found at **www.stpaulsbremen.church/school.**

We are starting to save natural wood and mulch for the new playground. If you are interested in joining the committee, volunteering, or have items to donate, please contact Beth Miller, 260-519-2884.

Our Sunday School continues to send $75.00 each month to a mission.

July Mission of the Month: Bremen Holy Walk

The 2026 Bremen Holy Walk will be held on December 4th and 5th. The schedule is as follows:

- **Friday, December 4th:** 6 PM - 9 PM.
- **Saturday, December 5th:** 5 PM - 9 PM.
    - **Children's Hour (Reservations Required):** 5 PM - 6 PM.



Parenting Corner This month's article will be about the Faith5 program. Members on the Christian Board of Education read the book, "Energizing Your Children's Ministry." One of the ideas it gave to help integrate faith in the home was the Faith5 program. This program is fully explained in the book, "Holding Your Family Together," written by Dr. Rich Melheim.

It involves using a nightly routine of Five Steps to connect your family to each other and our Savior. **Step 1: Share** your Highs and Lows- Every member of the family shares their highs and lows of the day. **Step 2: Read** a key Bible verse or story every night. **Step 3: Talk** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows every night. **Step 4: Pray** for one another's highs and lows aloud every night. The children pray for the parents as well as the parents pray for the children. **Step 5: Bless** one another before turning out the lights on the day.

The author's main purpose in developing this program with his own family and sharing his ideas with families is that this nightly routine invests time in your children and brings families together. He suggests you commit to trying this program for six weeks. There are several avenues presented to help you implement

this program. There is a six week FAITH5 course found at faith5.org/course. There is also a Blog at faith5.org/blog. There is a Facebook site to share stories, struggles and strivings with real people who tell their stories of how FAITH5 is enriching their family lives. Go to Facebook and search for FAITH5, and then "friend" me so we can talk if you have questions. (Instructions given in the book)

Major Capital Improvement Project coming in 2026

As many of you are already aware, our Church parking lot is deteriorating rapidly and is in need of a total rebuild. The Board of Church Properties is planning this project for 2026. This project is estimated to cost is about $155,000. We have already received several special donations for this project, but we will need additional dollars in order to avoid borrowing money for this project. Please prayerfully consider if you are in a position to contribute "above and beyond" your regular tithe to St. Paul's. If you are doing your charitable gift planning for 2025 and 2026, those checks may be placed in the offering plate and marked to be designated for the "Parking Lot Project". May God bless this project as we look to improve God's house and property for His Glory!

Boards of Stewardship and Church Properties

St. Paul's provides financial support to a student who is studying to be a church worker through one of our Concordia Universities or Seminaries. The current student we support just graduated with a Deaconess degree from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne. Therefore, we are searching for a candidate to support who is attending school this fall. Certainly, we would love to support a St. Paul's member, however, we have supported Lutheran students not at St. Paul's. If you have a student that you know may qualify for this support, please contact either Lori Haug, Brian Denk or Jim Tinkey no later than June 30.

Board of Stewardship

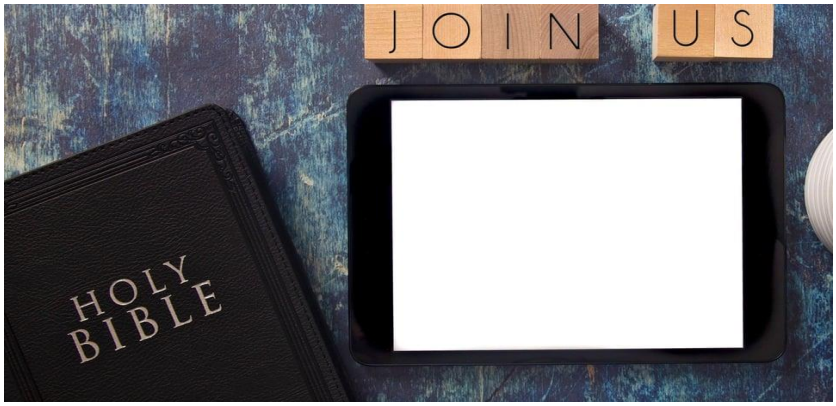
Before You, Lord, We Bow

"Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above, And rules the world below, Boundless in pow'r and love. Our thanks we bring, In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise to You, our King! "Earth, hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own; Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone. Cast down your […]
"Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above, And rules the world below, Boundless in pow'r and love. Our thanks we bring, In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise to You, our King!
"Earth, hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own; Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone. Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore, And bow before the Crucified."
The author of our hymn is Sir Francis Scott Key, who wrote the familiar lyrics that became America's national anthem. But today's hymn is not about loyalty to an earthly nation. Our hymn is a song of allegiance to the Lord of *all* nations. "Our God who reigns above" is the King of kings, who "makes nations great, and He destroys them; He enlarges nations, and leads them away" (Job 12:23).
The nations of the earth have their own rulers, and their approach to government takes many forms. Most often the rule is carried out for the good of those whom they govern. Although in some places the ruler may serve evil and selfish ends. Some rulers are monarchs who inherit the throne; others are dictators who take power for themselves by military might, and many are leaders elected by the people they govern. We as Christians are called to honor and obey our rulers, so long as their rule does not lead us in ways that are contrary to God's commands.
Earth's rulers may take up their power in many ways, but the Lord before whom we bow came into His kingly power by allowing His subjects to crown Him with thorns and nail Him to a cross, where He suffered and died for the sins of the world. Jesus our Lord was buried and raised to life on the third day and exalted to reign in glory at the right hand of God. Earthly kings, when faced with rebellious subjects, will often deal harshly with them. Our King came to earth to lay down His life to save us, rebels who rejected His lordship. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Word, we are called to repentance, our sins are forgiven, and we are welcomed into His kingdom.
Our hymn calls on the earth to hear its Maker's voice, a voice heard as "the heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1a). But only in God's Word will the

earth hear of the Maker's love for the world He created. Jesus, our crucified and risen King, said that repentance and forgiveness were to be proclaimed in His Name to all nations (see Luke 24:47). Through our witness we call on the nations to cast down their pride and deplore their sin. We pray that one day they will acknowledge Jesus as Lord.
The final verse of this hymn is a prayer that, on the Last Day, our native land might send forth from its tombs "a glorious band" to offer eternal praise to heaven's high King. We pray that the Holy Spirit would work through our witness and by the power of the Gospel turn rebels into saints who will joyfully "bow before the Crucified."

I DON'T ATTEND GROUP BIBLE STUDY BECAUSE….

Keep Up Bible Study Attendance: It's for Everyone



Many LCMS churches like St Paul's offer regular Sunday morning Bible classes and weekly small group meetings, sometimes as women's group Bible study or men's group Bible study.

But if you look at the weekly attendance to Bible studies compared to the number of people who attend worship on Sunday or the number of "members" in the congregation, the numbers don't match up. Why do fewer people attend these studies? Why is there such a big gap? What's the disconnect?

I'd like to argue that there are no excuses for not attending Bible study. People of all ages need to study the Scriptures surrounded by fellow Christians. Here are

three common reasons why people might not attend regular Bible study and some encouragement to rethink that perspective!

Bible Study Is Not the Same as Corporate Worship

Corporate worship is vital to the Christian life. The Bible is full of encouragement for gathering together as the people of God to receive His blessings of forgiveness. But corporate worship is not Bible study.

Studying the Bible with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, whether on Sunday morning or in a small group, is so beneficial to your faith. Learning the Scriptures on a more in-depth level can help you get more out of your time in weekly worship by helping you feel more familiar with the Bible.

Bible Study Is Personal and Public

One reason many people don't attend regular Bible study is because they assume their personal daily Bible reading is enough. Of course, we should all be regularly studying the Scriptures on our own! But it's also important to learn from your pastor or group leader.

Additionally, it can be beneficial to hear your peers' perspectives on what you're studying. I have learned so much from others' questions and thoughts because their life experiences are different than mine!

Bible Study Is for Everyone

Some people might think that Bible study is too complicated or "academic" for them. Your leaders' teaching style informs how the study goes, of course, but the truth is that Bible study is for everyone. If you don't know your Bible very well, then Bible study is the perfect place to learn! Learning from others and surrounding yourself with fellow Christians is a great way to become more well-versed in the Scriptures.

On the flip side, some people might think they don't need Bible study because they've been a Christian their whole life and think they know the Bible well enough. I'm sorry to break it to you, but no one—not your pastor, not your grandma, and not Martin Luther—can ever exhaust the Scriptures.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us,

“The word of God is living and active.”

So God’s work in teaching us through His Word is never complete!

Getting started is easy: Sunday morning Bible study is at 8:30AM to 9:15 AM in the Bethany room of the Fellowship Halll. If you have young children and/or teenagers, there are Sunday school and youth Bible Study classes offered at the same time….bring the whole family! Since worship service starts at 9:30 AM, Bible study and Sunday School help get the day started in worship and fellowship just as God has instructed us to do. Bible Study during the week is also available. Check the weekly worship service bulletin, the St. Paul’s website calendar or call the church office for locations, times and type of study groups there.

Summer Quarter Sunday School Classes

May we “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18) as we study God’s Word together. Please join us on Sundays, 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Pre-K – Grade 7 (Mr. Miller’s Room)

We will continue our “Journey through the Seven C’s of History” from Answers in Genesis. In July, our studies will focus on **CHRIST** (the Life and Ministry of Jesus). Lessons include “Jesus Calls His Disciples,” “The Healing of the Paralytic” (Christ’s power over illness and disabilities), the parable of “The Wise Man and the Foolish Man,” and “Jesus Calms the Storm” (Christ’s power over Creation).

Everyone will meet in Mr. Miller’s classroom and then separate into younger and older age groups for the Bible study. In addition to the lessons, children will engage in games and/or crafts. The older students will continue working in their “Bible Investigators” activity book. Snacks are also available. This class is led by Wendy Coxey and Jeanette Rettinger.

High School, College, New Confirmands (Emmaus Room)

Celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary as you read and discuss excerpts from God's Promises for the American Patriot. For more than 200 years God's promises have led our country. Enjoy the stories of heroes, past and present, who've devoted their lives to establishing and shaping America on the promises of God. Experience those same promises from the Bible in your life today. Adults of all ages are also welcome to attend! This class is led by a rotation of volunteers.

Adult Bible Class (Bethany Room)

Join Dave Burcham and Terry Miller for a comprehensive study of the book of **James**.

More Opportunities for Bible Study

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Enjoy breakfast and lively discussion at the Bremen Hospital Cafeteria! This class meets alternating Wednesdays (July 8 and July 22) . . . . . 6:30-7:30 a.m.

ALTAR GUILD

Any member of communicant age, who is willing to learn the work of the guild may express that desire to any attendant. Director Mel Schutz will see that you are paired with a "veteran" attendant for training. Afterward, if you determine this is something you would like to do you will be added to the schedule.

The Flower Chart for 2026 is hanging outside the Altar Guild room in the Narthex. To donate altar flowers just sign on any open date (please give the occasion). If you wish any help in finding a florist, ordering or picking up flowers please contact the attendant whose name is listed on the Epistle calendar. They will also explain how to get your flowers after services have concluded.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 2026

ANNIVERSARIES

11	Larry & Vicki Miller
12	Michael & Donna Gordon
16	Michael & Marilyn Gumz
20	Ken & Anita Eichinger
22	Derek & Whitney Nick
25	Larry & Tammy Britt
28	Nathan & Beth Miller
29	Bill & Jamie Rogers
30	Scott & Tonya Hundt

BIRTHDAYS

1	Cleon Felton
2	Gabby Barts
3	Terri Davis Lillian Pulliam
5	Beth Miller
6	LeeAnna VanSoest
7	Bill Latzke John Pulliam III
8	Rita Stanifer Mark Wildauer
9	Anita Eichinger
11	Dan Fox
12	Lori Haug
15	Carol Hardy
17	Robert Koontz
19	Linda Ringle
20	Cheryl Ervin Brad Sahlhoff
21	Makayla (Fox) Schlick
26	Jase Garrett
27	Gabriel Mejia
28	Barb Middaugh
29	Kevin Furman
30	Karie Furman Diana Stuckman
31	Robert Bowen Mary Ingle Carol Kramer



St. Paul's 180th LITURGICAL YEAR † July 1 – July 31, 2026

Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives

Sunday 9:30 a.m. ⁎ Celebration of Holy Communion

July 5 6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12 ⁎ 7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 19 8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 26 ⁎ 9th Sunday after Pentecost

July Minor Festivals **25** St. James The Greater ● *Commemorations* **6** Isaiah ● **16** Ruth ● **20** Elijah ● **21** Ezekiel ● **22** St. Mary Magdalene ● **28** Johann Sebastian Bach, Kantor 1685-1750 ● **29** Mary, Martha, & Lazarus Of Bethany, Friends of Jesus ● **30** Robert Barnes, Confessor & Martyr 1495-1540 ● **31** Joseph Of Arimathea

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THE WINDOWS OF ST. PAUL'S

THE PELCAN IN HER PIETY 1958 *5th window N: Gift of Mr. & Mrs.Marshall E. (Kay) Stine*



Based on the legend that in times of famine, a mother pelican would pluck her breast and feed her young from her own blood so they would live. This symbol has been used since the Middle Ages. The **PELICAN** represents our Lord's *selfless sacrifice,* who out of His love for us, shed *His own blood* on Calvary. Note how the **NEST** resembles thorns. We are the **YOUNG BIRDS**, the Church, redeemed from death and are fed by the blood of Christ in The Lord's Supper (**DROP of BLOOD**): *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."* + Ephesians 1:7 +

LITURGICAL COLORS / SYMBOLS - **WHITE SET(S)**:

Altar:

ALLELUIA: Means "Praise ye the Lord" (from the Greek). A term of joy and worship. Equivalent to the Hebrew word translated "Hallelujah."

GREEK CROSS (has 4 equal arms): All crosses point to our Savior's atoning sacrifice.

Pulpit:

Christmas MANGER & STAR: symbols of the Nativity: Humble birth, Divine Savior

Easter TRIANGLE w/ IHS & BUTTERFLY: An equilateral triangle is the chief symbol for the Trinity; IHS is a shortened form of the Greek word for the name Jesus and declares St. Paul's believes and teaches Jesus is God; a Butterfly symbolizes resurrection & new life.

Lectern & Stoles:

Christmas CHI RHO w/ CROWN: XP, 2-letter Greek monogram of Christ (x = ch, p = r); the Crown symbolizes Christ is our King.

Easter LILY**:** Symbol of the resurrection.

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." +

John 6:35,51,54-55 +