The EPISTLE August 2026

Address:

605 S. Center St.

Bremen, IN 46506

Telephone:

1-574-546-2332

E-Mail:

church@stpaulsbremen.org

schools@stpaulsbremen.org

Website:

stpaulsbremen.church

facebook.com/stpaulsbremen

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

From Pastor Wonnacott's Keyboard:

How many of you are like me, wondering where the summer went? August 12th is the first day for our Day School with 5 new students. August 17th is the first day for our preschool, with double the number of students from last year.

But we still have many jobs to be finished. We're working on the drains in the parking lot, paving the parking lot, cleaning carpets, painting walls, cleaning classrooms, and starting to build a new playground.

This summer has been touched by God, and we are amazed at all the material and monetary blessings. It's a summer of new beginnings for our church and school. But Satan isn't going to leave us alone just because we're busy. Satan's great tool of deception is time itself. Will we get everything finished before school starts? If not, whose fault is it? Will our blessings decrease if everything we want to do is not completed by August 12, 2026? No!

No matter what, we should continue to be thankfully and joyfully Lutheran. Every blessing and every struggle should bring us closer to God and closer as a family of believers. A great formula for contentment is pray, praise, and give thanks to God, then repeat!!!

On a personal note, my back surgery is scheduled for August 13th. The surgery will be at Parkview – Ft. Wayne, through One Ortho North East. Then I will go on short-term disability from mid-August to the beginning of November. I humbly ask for your prayers; for relief of pain and healing according to God's good and gracious will. I thank God for all the members of St. Paul's- what a family God has made from us to serve in His kingdom. The Lord be with you!

THE DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER EPISTLE IS AUGUST 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: Dish Channel 26 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, August 21 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!

Rev. Micah Wildauer
Missionary of the Lutheran Church--
Missouri Synod www.lcms.org/wildauer
micah.wildauer@lcms.org

21 July 2026

St. Paul's Evangelical
Lutheran Church 605
South Center Street
Bremen, IN 46506

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10

Dear Pastor Wonnacott and the Saints of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

I send to you my most heart-felt greetings in the name our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Christ is our true and only Light in these darkened days. He continues to gather and nourish the faithful whom He has called by name. Christ's resurrection is our hope when living and when dying.

On behalf of my family, I simply want to express my gratitude for all that the congregation has done for us over the past nine months. We came back to the States for Robin's cancer treatments last October and settled in for the first snowy winter that our kids truly remember. I have lost count of the many ways in which St. Paul's has embraced and helped our family. Some of the ways are pro-viding meals after treatments, watching the children during treatments, involving the children in the Christmas program, incorporating our youngest two into the school, inviting them to join a choir or youth activity, random gifts of fresh foods, and the list goes on. Your hospitality has offered more than we could have ever anticipated. We are grateful and thank the Lord for your kindness.

Our initial hoped-for return to the mission field came and went this past June. After Robin's initial rounds of chemo followed by surgery in May, the pathology reports revealed that the cancer is still active on a microscopic level. This means an extended stay in Bremen. She is currently going through radiation treatments. This will be followed by a different type of chemotherapy. We have been in conversation with the doctors in Belize and believe that it might be possible to eventually transfer the second part of the next chemo treatments to a hospital there. We invite you to pray that Robin receives this next round of chemo well and that the remaining care can be transferred to our mission field in Belize. Our hope for this is by November.

May the Lord continue to provide for your every need so that you can be a blessing to others. Continue to keep Christ at the center in all that you do.

Christ's peace be yours in abundance,
Pastor Micah Wildauer, Robin, Sam, Liza, David, and Lydia

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Witness Always

Preschool Postings

We are so excited for Preschool to begin! Our PreK class is overflowing with students, and we can't wait to meet our Beginners. We have a brand-new parking lot, and work is progressing on the playground. Most importantly, we are ready to share the love of Jesus with the children and their families throughout the year.

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 'Prayer'. Lutherans teach that prayer is a Christian's communion with God; that, though it is not an act by which merit or reward is won, it is divinely commanded, should be regularly practiced by every Christian for his own sake and for the benefit of others, and, if made in faith, has God's definite and sure promises of gracious acceptance and ready answer. References - Ps 19:14; Matt. 7:7-8; Ps 50:15; 1 Timothy 2:1, 8; 1 John 5:14; Is. 65:24; Matt. 21:22.

Mark your calendar and join us! Our next Welcome Bag delivery will be on Sunday, August 2nd following Church service. 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

Thank you to all who helped (and donated) during the PTL Pancake Breakfast and Rummage Sale in July! We appreciate you!

School is rapidly approaching! Here are some upcoming events in August: August 3rd- PTL Meeting, 6:00pm; **August 4th and 5th-** School Cleaning; **August 9th-** Parent Orientation Meeting, 5:30pm, with School Picnic, 6:00pm; **August 12th-** First day K-8; **August 17th-** First Pre-K Day; **and August 18th-** First Beginner Preschool Day.

The School Office is open during the summer, 9:00am-1:00pm. Additional hours for enrollment/scholarship appointments are available upon request.

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.

August Mission of the Month: Lutherans for Life

Lutherans For Life exists to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

For more information on Lutherans for Life, go to www.lutheransforlife.org





The Lord blessed our week of VBS on our Tropical Trek! All those involved enjoyed coming for a fun filled week singing, listening and participating in the Bible Story, learning Bible verses, doing crafts, playing together, and observing science demonstrations.

Attendance was up this year with an average of 44. We were especially encouraged our preschool group had 15 kids, up from 7 who attended last year. Most of the kids were from our church, school or other LCMS churches. It was also a blessing to have 20 adults and 13 youth help with VBS as site leaders, group leaders or helpers. We are very blessed at St. Paul's to have dedicated volunteers who spend many hours preparing and then serving the week of VBS. We are fortunate to continue providing a Christ centered VBS program in the Bremen community.

On Wednesday morning, the elementary aged kids watched the Rogue Valley Fellowship version of Pilgrims Progress available on YouTube. This production was done by this church in Medford, Oregon. Then in the evening we had our Patriotic Family Night VBS program. There were nearly 50 kids and adults who came for the meal and participated in the program. We enjoyed Patriotic music with solos of The Star Spangled Banner sung by Lily Rogers and The Battle Hymn of the Republic sung by Jessica Rogers. Everyone also sang God Bless America and America the Beautiful. Pastor Micah Wildauer led the Zacchaeus Bible Story with participants. Patriotic crafts were completed and the kids enjoyed the Paul Revere relay in the gym led by Tom Coxey.

Our mission project benefited the Haitian Feeding Program with $403 collected.

A big thank you to all who attended the LWML work night to help prepare crafts. Vacation Bible School was a wonderful opportunity to come together to help the

children of our congregation and community grow in their faith while having a great time!

The last full week of June seemed to work well so the 2027 VBS will be June 21st-25th.



Parenting Corner

This month's article will feature the drjamesdobson.org website. Dr. James Dobson was a highly respected Christian psychologist. He was the founder of Focus on the Family. He also was the author of more than 70 books dedicated to the preservation of the family.

Then after this, he launched the radio broadcast Family Talk which continues on WFRN 104.7 FM at 8 PM M-F even though he passed away last year. Information about family issues can be found on the website.

The current topics with a one-minute video are on the following topics. **Divorce is Not the Easy Solution-**Divorce seems like the pathway to freedom, but it delivers a whole host of unexpected consequences. **Parenting a Difficult Child-**Dealing with an unruly son or daughter? Hang in there! Kids grow up in the blink of an eye-keep praying and remain faithful! **How to Discourage Sibling Rivalry-**Sibling rivalry is common, but don't allow it to continue unchecked! Instead, build self-esteem in each of your children to promote a harmonious home. **An Important Key to a Healthy Marriage-**More than a fancy cake, beautiful clothing or flowers, an essential ingredient in wedding planning is premarital counseling. **Hold Them Close and Then Let Them Go-**Granting independence gradually through the years is the job of parents, and it will help develop responsible young adults. Past broadcasts can also be found at drjamesdobson.org/broadcasts.

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

Hospitality to Strangers

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:1-2

As I've traveled across the country, I've had the opportunity to see many, different worship styles.

Those worship styles — like beauty — are often in the eyes of the beholder. Some are high church, while others are not so high. Some prefer to accompany all music with an organ, and other places wouldn't know a pipe organ if it bit them on the leg.

Of course, there are those customs that seem to be practiced in almost all congregations. One of the most popular is the exchange of greetings — you know, where everybody stands in the pew while husbands greet their wives and children, and wives greet their husbands and children, and the children, well, they try not to look embarrassed because they're sitting near their parents.

I remember one church where the practice was just starting. Apparently, the pastor had made the announcement that on such and such a Sunday they would start greeting each other. After the announcements, as the congregation got up to leave, one man turned around and said a cheerful "Good morning!" to the lady behind him.

At first she was shocked by his boldness. Then, with great dignity, she replied: "I beg your pardon! That *friendliness business* doesn't start until next Sunday!"

Thankfully, most of God's people don't feel that way. Most show brotherly love and many show hospitality to strangers. In doing this they are following a pattern set by the Savior and one that was usually encouraged in the early church. If they hadn't been hospitable and loving, I doubt the church would have reached the size it has.
We, who are recipients of Jesus' love, forgiveness and salvation, appreciate and do our best to emulate His style of ministry.
"And what style is that?" you ask.
It's the style which loves the unlovable, reaches out to the untouchable, finds a spot for the unacceptable and, in every way imaginable, does to others as they wish to have done to them.
This is why this devotion is going to propose something radical. Next Sunday, when the pastor announces the greeting, get real dangerous; take a walk on the wild side; step into the aisle and say "hello" to someone whom you normally might pass over.
And if you're thinking I would never pass over anyone, let me ask this: when was the last time you said "hello" to a little child or someone who had some challenges?

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 complete our "Journey through the Seven C's of History" with **C**ross and **C**onsummation, discussing God's gracious plan of salvation through His Son, Jesus, and the promise of eternity that awaits all believers. The program is part of the Answers in Genesis curriculum.

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, science experiments, and 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 (August 5 and August 19) . . . . . 6:30-7:30 a.m.

ALTAR GUILD

Any member of St. Paul's 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 it is your gift 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 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.

Please join the LWML on Monday evening, August 3rd, at 6:30 pm. We will be joined by Pastor Soe Moe who is an ordained LCMS pastor called by Southwest Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne to be the Youth Pastor and as a missionary to the Burmese people in Ft. Wayne.

LAMB's Mission: to support and evangelize the peoples of Burma with the love of Jesus Christ by coordinating outreach missions. LAMB shares Jesus with Burmese people in Fort Wayne and beyond through social media, medical advocacy, and youth ministry with activities to strengthen those in the church and outreach to those not in the church. Pastor, James Keller, (LCMS), began LAMB over 20 years ago by assisting Burmese refugees and advising them on many facets of American life- everything from Green cards to driver's licenses, to applying for citizenship. From these many efforts, relationships were formed and doors were opened for the spiritual needs to be met using the Bible and Small Catechism translated in the Karen and Burmese languages and with movies, books and articles also in their languages. Today, Pastor Jim's church, New Life Lutheran Church, is mostly Burmese and growing. **Since the staff is solely made up of volunteers, LAMB support goes directly to the needs of Burmese people, who are struggling to make a new life in a new land, and seeking God.**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August 2026

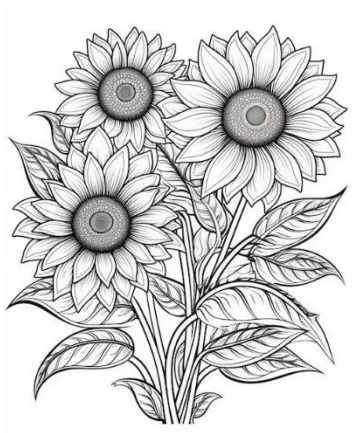
ANNIVERSARIES

2	Mark & Heidi Wildauer
6	David & Debra Burcham
8	Pastor Neil & Christie Wonnacott
19	Larry & Grace Winterboer
20	Al & Martha Schroeder
21	Kevin & Susan Furman
22	Brian & Kathleen Denk

BIRTHDAYS

4	Ken Eichinger
	Braxton Leed
	Wiley Napper
5	Keegan Guse
6	Reuben Napper
7	Brynlee Bailey
9	Sandie Schooler
10	Sara Knepper
	Joann Wonnacott
11	Bayly Dobbins
	Matt Fox
	Susan Furman
13	Cathy Dietl
	Jim Kaiser
	Kathleen Nielsen
14	Kristin Guse
17	Amy Clark
20	Tim Clark Sr.
	Al Schroeder
21	Josie Wildauer
22	Tyler Schmeltz
23	Julie Fox
24	Christin Lizzi
	Jim Tinkey
26	Troy Yoder
29	April Miller
	Garrett Stanifer
30	Lewis Haug
31	John Kiefer
	Kara Green





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

Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives

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

August 2 10th Sunday after Pentecost **August 9** ⁎ 11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16 12th Sunday after Pentecost **August 23** ⁎ 13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30 14th Sunday after Pentecost

August minor Festivals: **24** St. Bartholomew, Apostle ● **29** Martyrdom of John the Baptist ● *Commemorations:* **3** Joanna, Mary, & Salome Myrrhbearers ● **10** St. Laurence, Martyr ● **15** Mary, mother of Our Lord ● **16** Isaac ● **17** Johann Gerhard, Theologian 1582-1637 ● **18** Bernard of Clairvaux, Hymnwriter & Theologian 1090-1153 ● **20** Samuel, Last judge of Israel ● **27** Monica, Mother of Augustine ● **28** Augustine of Hippo, Pastor & Theologian 354-430

THE WINDOWS OF ST. PAUL'S

THE WORLD IN SIN 1958 *2nd window N: In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Albert E. Kiefer by their children*



The **GLOBE** signifies all creation - man and nature - in bondage to sin since The Fall of Man, recorded in Genesis 3.+ *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men."* Romans 5:12 + The **SERPENT** does not represent snakes; it is a Biblical symbol for Satan, enemy of God and man: *"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world."* Revelation 12:9 + Without Christ, we are under the power of sin, death, and the devil.

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." + Genesis 3:15

LITURGICAL COLORS / PARAMENTS & SYMBOLS / **GREEN SET(S)**:

GREEN signifies: growth and life, specifically the spiritual growth and maturity of God's people, the Church; also spiritual refreshment and regeneration. All ordinary Sundays of Epiphany, and after Trinity Sunday (Weeks after Pentecost) are **GREEN**. *Note*: ***'ordinary'*** *means that a Sunday does not have a specific designation, and is simply named: "# Week" after... Epiphany or Pentecost.* If the pastor so chooses, Epiphany season may remain White**.** FYI: altar guild is to always follow pastor's preference when more than color may be used.

ALTAR**: HOLY HOLY HOLY** From Isaiah 6, a confession of the nature of our God: He alone is holy and worthy of our praise. Thrice repeated invokes the Trinity

ALTAR, LECTERN, 1 STOLE: **CROSS TRIUMPHANT**: Triumph of the Gospel (Jesus/cross) throughout the world (globe). The Triangle in the center represents The Trinity.

PULPIT: **TRIANGLE / TREE OF LIFE** The Triangle, most commonly used symbol for The Trinity, Author of our salvation. The Tree represents growth in Christ ("green" time) through His Word.

1 Stole: **CHI RHO** Greek letters XP: a monogram of Christ.

"So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed in victory.'" "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15:54,57 +