The EPISTLE September 2026

From Pastor Wonnacott's Keyboard:

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Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 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

Designed as a Gift

In the Word

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, … (1 Peter 4:10a NIV).

Of the Word

When God created you, He designed you to be a gift to the people in your life! God then gave you specific talents and skills to be that gift. He gave you ears to be a listener and eyes to see the needs of others. Our Father gave you a heart filled with His hope so those around you could see His presence in your life.

Because we are aware of our own sins and shortcomings, it is not always easy to believe we are a "gift." We may be hesitant to open ourselves up to others fearing they will see the "real" us – imperfect, sinful, a failure. Ah, but that's when God can use us in spite of our weaknesses and imperfections. Because we have received His forgiveness, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit we can share His message of hope and salvation in both words and deeds.

Be a special gift to someone today by sharing the beautiful message of hope that the grace of God gives us through His Son, our Savior, Jesus. His gift to us is eternal life with Him. What a gift!

Walking with my Lord

Lord God, thank You for the gifts You have given me. Help me to use them to Your glory as I share Your love with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: *Everyday Celebrations.* Authors: Elaine Bickel and Jan Struck. 4/28 ©2015 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. Code: #40195

THE DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER EPISTLE IS SEPTEMBER 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!

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, September 25th 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!

Preschool Postings

We welcomed many returning students, and even more new ones, on August 17th and 18th. Thanks to a big crew of volunteers we returned to a clean and organized preschool, anticipating new adventures this school year. Please keep the staff, students, and their families in your prayers as they grow and learn together, "Rooted in Christ!"

School Corner

School has started. . . and been in session for almost three weeks! We have a total enrollment of 66 students and 13 staff members. We appreciate your continued support through prayer, volunteerism, and finances!

Kindergarten through 8th Grade students enjoyed their first field trip to Camp Lutherhaven the end of August. They got to hike, play camp games, learn skills through team building exercises, and enjoy the beauty of camp in general! All field trips are paid for with the Choice Scholarship, except for our chaperones. There will be more planned for the fall!

We need to replenish our SGO account! **Last school year, we provided over $53,000 in scholarships from the SGO Fund and we anticipate the same need this year!** 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 is always 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.

Save the Date

On October 25th, we will be hosting a special dinner following the service for our entire congregation. We are excited to welcome and celebrate with all of our members, including those who have joined us in years past as well as our newest members. We look forward to sharing a wonderful time of fellowship and food together. More information to be given later.

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

September Mission of the Month: LAMB

LAMB (Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese, Fort Wayne, Indiana) exists to support and evangelize the peoples of Burma with the love of Jesus Christ by coordinating outreach missions.

From their website:

Our founding Pastor, James Keller, (LCMS), began LAMB over 20 year ago by assisting Burmese refugees and advising them on many facets of American life- everything from Green cards to drivers licenses, to applying for citizenship. From these many efforts, relationships were formed and doors were opened for the spiritual needs to be met. Today, Pastor Jim's church, New Life Lutheran Church, is mostly Burmese and growing.

LAMB reaches out to the peoples of Burma here in the US in many ways. Our organization assists Burmese in medical needs, to include pregnancy assistance for new mothers, and in youth activities to strengthen those in the church and outreach to those not in the church. LAMB educates in the Christian faith in movies, books and articles in the Karen and Burmese languages. Our staff is volunteers, so 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.

PTL Fundraiser

September 15th all day at the Plymouth Hacienda. Watch the upcoming bulletins for the coupons to be used.

Extended Care

We are looking for some help either before or after school. If you're interested or know someone who is, please contact Heather Middaugh at (574) 248-9390.



Parenting Corner

It is that time of year again when kids are back in school. What can parents do to help your child have a successful year? Ground your family in God's Word and prayer! *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* Phillipians 4:6-7

Parents are encouraged to put a priority on **spiritual success** as your children enter a new school year. Think about setting **God-centered goals** and lean on Christ to handle anxiety by turning to prayer and Scripture together.

Here are some suggestions for helping your children:

-Talk with your children about their fears and joys while pointing them to Jesus as their guide.

-Pray specifically for safety, wise friendships, and protection from negative peer pressure.

-Encourage acts of service and kindness, reminding your children they are to be a "light" in their classroom.

-Remind them God is in control over all things and that He is omnipresent in their classroom.

God's Blessings on the new school year!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The voters approved revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws for St. Paul's congregation which result in a simpler organization structure with fewer boards. Part of the changes focus on revisions to the treasurer position. The Treasurer position has now been redefined as "Financial Accounting" and is no longer a position that must be held by a male member of the congregation. This "Financial Accounting" function could be carried out by a single individual or a group. The duties and organization of Financial Accounting are as follows.

a) The Financial Accounting shall be responsible for accurate recording of congregational receipts and disbursements and budgeted and actual expenditures according to proper accounting procedures and, as deemed advisable, shall suggest for congregational consideration improved methods and systems for keeping financial records.
b) The Financial Accounting can be accomplished by one or more members of the congregation working singly or as a committee or it can be contracted to an accounting firm outside the congregation.
c) The Financial Accounting shall report to the Executive Director of the congregation or other church board or congregation member designated by the Executive Director.
d) The Financial Accounting shall provide to the Executive Director a summarized, written, financial report for Voters' Assembly meetings and Parish Planning Council meetings.
e) The Financial Accounting shall provide pertinent financial records for annual financial position verification procedures via audit.
f) The Financial Accounting shall be responsible for monthly remission of offerings for missions and church agencies and for prompt payment of salaries and bills authorized by the congregation or the boards and directors as duly constituted sources.
g) The Financial Accounting shall receive from the Financial Secretary a report of all monies received through worship services, special offerings, or any other source and duly record it. Financial Accounting shall have available for all boards a current record of their disbursements and budget allotment.
h) The Financial Accounting, if consisting of congregational member(s), shall designate an individual to be a member of the Salary and Wages Advisory Committee. Other members are the Director or a selected member of the Board of Stewardship, Elders, Church Properties, and the School Board. This advisory committee shall meet during the months of the annual budget preparation. In the event of Financial Accounting function being outsourced to an entity outside of the congregation, the Assistant Executive

Director shall be a member of the committee. The Director of the Board of Stewardship shall chair and initiate the meetings of the committee.

i) The Financial Accounting shall be responsible for remission of any applicable personal property, payroll, state and federal tax compliance filings.
j) The Financial Accounting shall be responsible for remission of annual financial data required by the Indiana District.

It is the intent to implement the revised Constitution and By-Laws commencing with the Election of Officers and Boards in June of 2027. WE ARE PRESENTLY SEEKING MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION WHO ARE WILLING TO SERVE IN THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING FUNCTION AS EITHER A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL OR AS A MEMBER OF A FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING GROUP.

If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact Dave Burcham at 574-520-9118 or dburcham67@gmail.com. If we do not have members willing to serve in this manner, we will need to hire an accounting function outside of St. Paul's congregation and include this expense in the 2027 budget proposal to the Voters in November of this year.

God Wants Us to Have Joy

We write this to make our joy complete. 1 John 1:4

At the heart of Christianity is joy. True, we are all sinners, and sin brings sorrow. We see our great loss in sin. We confess that we are "poor, miserable sinners." But that is not all. Our defeat has been brought under the power of the Savior's victory. In Him our sins are forgiven. Through Christ and His sacrifice our whole problem of sin has been solved. Jesus has defeated Satan, who caused sin in the first place. Now Satan has no more power over us. We can go on our way with joy because the sin-bearer is on our side. This is God's promise to all who are sorry for their sins and accept the Savior's forgiveness. God wants us to be sad only to be glad. The final note of the Christian religion is joy. Who can be joyless when they know they have a Savior who has conquered sin, death, and hell?

On the darkest night of His life Jesus prayed that His children might receive His joy. True, there is much sadness and heartbreak in the world. We are all disturbed by what the world has come to. But we must ever cling to what has come into the world through the Lord Jesus Christ, in

whom we have triumph, victory, and joy. God expects every believer to live in joy.



LifeLight will be starting on Wednesday, September 16th. We will meet each Wednesday from 6:45-8:18 pm through November 11th. This year we are studying the Gospel of Mark. Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex.

Sunday School -- Fall Quarter Offerings

Opportunities await for meaningful Christian fellowship as we study God's Word together. Join us for Bible study today!

(Children's Summer Sunday School will conclude on September 6 with a special Labor Day devotion and service project for our shut-ins. This includes children in Pre-K through Grade 8.

Pre-K – Grade 2 (Nazareth Room)

Bring your little ones to hear the Good News of our loving Savior, Jesus! Children learn God's word, sing Bible songs, make crafts, participate in activities, and have a snack! This month we will learn about parables of the Bible. . . . taught by Wendy Coxey . . . . 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Grades 2-8 (Meet in the Day School)

Jeanette Rettinger and Barb Middaugh will join forces as they lead a class in "Bible Basics – Teach the Kids how to use and (& Love) their Bibles!" This month the focus will be to learn the names of the books of the Bible. Meet in Mr. Miller's classroom for further instructions. . . . . 8:30-9:15 a.m.

High School (Emmaus Room)

Are there times you wish you had more courage? Courage to face your fears, courage to stand up for someone who is being mistreated, courage to make things right? Join Mark Wildauer as he leads a study entitled, **COURAGE that Defies Death** as you look at six people in the Bible who each demonstrated courage in one situation or another. . . . . 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Class (Bethany Room)

"Prepared for a Reason" is a study in apologetics. Apologetics is the study and practice of giving answers for the reasonableness and truth of the Christian faith. It is used to help people see that Christianity is not a blind faith but a faith that makes sense of what we see. It equips Christians with answers so they can do what 1Peter 3:15 instructs – to show we can <u>defend</u> the Christian faith. Instructors are TBD. . . . . 8:30-9:15 a.m.

More Opportunities for Bible Study:

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Join in on lively discussions every other Wednesday morning at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria! . . . . . 6:30-7:30 a.m. (September 2, September 16, September 30)

Thursday Morning Ladies' Bible Study (Emmaus Room)

Join Barb Middaugh and the ladies in their current Bible study entitled, **Wherever Love May Lead**. This class meets every Thursday morning, 9:30-10:45 a.m., beginning September 10. All ladies are welcome to attend!

ALTER 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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September 2026

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Rob & Patty Bowen
6	Joe & Cheryl Ervin
14	Todd & Lori Haug
17	Traci & John Pulliam II
21	Ryan & Christin Lizzi
24	Keith & Helen Bellman
26	Todd & Charlotte Knepper
29	Matt & Jasmine Fox
	Robert & Nancy Koontz

BIRTHDAY

1	Kamden Guse
	Allysianna Hughes
2	Whitney Nick
3	Wilodene Chaffin
	Jennifer Harman
	Lori Knigga
4	Layla Eby
	Joanna Fox
	Bradyn VanSoest
6	Ashley Holderman
7	Heather Middaugh
8	Philip Kulcsar
	Bradley Siefer
10	Jennifer Brurok
	Larry Winterboer
12	Jamie Rogers
	Carlie Scott
14	Michael Stillson
15	Jared Miller
	Jett Miller
	Jasmyn Russell
16	Todd Knepper
19	Joe Beasley
	Kali Foster
20	Tara Andrews
21	Nancy Koontz
22	Virgil Anglemyer
	Keith Bellman
23	Summer Clark
	Jillian Miller
24	Abby Harman
26	Samantha Hinds
	Abigail Kulcsar
	Trisha Miller
	Lucinda Russell
	Alvia Wynn
28	Ryan Lizzi



St. Paul's 180th LITURGICAL YEAR † September 1 – September 30, 2026

Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives

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

September 6 15th Sunday after Pentecost **September 13** ⁎ 16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20 17th Sunday after Pentecost **September 27** ⁎ 18th Sunday after Pentecost

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September Minor Festivals: **21** St. Matthew a.k.a. Levi, Evangelist ● **29** St. Michael and All Angels ● *Commemorations*: **1** Joshua ● **2** Hannah, Mother of Samuel ● **3** Gregory The Great, Pastor, Pope Gregory I 590 – 604 ● **4** Moses ● **5** Zacharias & Elizabeth ● **14** Holy Cross Day a.k.a. Triumph of the Cross ● **16** Cyprian Of Carthage, Pastor & Martyr ● **22** Jonah ● **30** Jerome Translator of Holy Scripture 345-420

THE WINDOWS OF ST. PAUL'S

CROWN OF THORNS 1958 *4th window N:* *Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Gerhardt Bornemann*



Christ's *Passion* -- His suffering and death, especially the crucifixion – is symbolized by **THORNS** (a mockery 'crown'); which depicts Jesus' humiliation at the hands of the soldiers. *"When they had twisted o crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews.'"* Matthew 27:29 + **NAILS** signify the manner of His death. INRI are the Latin initials of the superscription, which were also written in Hebrew and Greek, that Pilate had placed over Jesus' head to proclaim His "crime." John 19:19-20 + It reads: **I** *IESUS* {Jesus} **N** *NAZARENUS* {of Nazareth} **R** *REX* {King} **I**

IUDAEORUM {of the Jews}. This window testifies that St. Paul's confesses Christ was crucified and died. ***"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."*** I Corinthians 2:2 +

1958 4th window S: Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Henry F. Kiefer **THE CROWN AND THE CROSS**



The **CROSS** represents faith in Jesus, and also symbolizes that by this faith all believers can be sure of their salvation and the hope of eternal life. *"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe I your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* Rom 9:9-10+

The **CROWN** represents Jesus' victory through the cross, and His defeat of sin, death, and the devil. It declares Jesus is our living King of kings. All believers in Him will receive a crown as well. *"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."* II Tim 4:7-8

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Revelation 2:10 KJV