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Website:

stpaulsbremen.church

facebook.com/stpaulsbremen

vimeo.com/stpaulsbremen

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 – 12:00 pm

THE OCTOBER EPISTLE 2026

From Pastor Wonnacott's Keyboard:

It's Time

In the Word

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: … a time to keep, and a time to cast away (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 6b).

Of the Word

Into everyone's life comes the day when the realization hits that "stuff" has to go! It can be the attic, garage, kitchen, desk, wardrobe, or whatever else it is that has an overabundance of accumulation. The big decisions now are, "What shall I keep?" and "What shall I cast away?"

Our lives are somewhat the same with accumulated discouragements, resentments, regrets, or angers, all of which lead to spiritual sickness. This is the day to start casting them out of our lives for good. Our faithful Father is waiting to help us do just that because He knows we are helpless to do it on our own. *Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory…* (Ephesians 3:20–21a NIV).

A Point to Ponder: How can I let go of what happened in the past and live in the present?

Walking with my Lord

Lord, through the help of Your Holy Spirit free me from any bitterness in my life. Help me to live with joy for today and trust for the future. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: *The Word: Wisdom for Living*. Authors: Marcia Gomulka and Myrna Lou Meyer. 13/32 ©2015 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. Code: #40198

THE DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER EPISTLE IS OCTOBER 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, October 23rd 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 finally had a taste of fall last month and it was refreshing after all the heat and torrential rain! At preschool we're planning to enjoy autumn by inviting our special people to Grandparents Day, experiencing Fire Safety month, and getting some rest during Fall Break. The students will also learn about some of God's helpers in the Old Testament, like Moses and Joshua. Please keep our families in your prayers, that they would grow closer to Jesus and to each other.

School Corner

We are preparing for an exciting October!

The next **PTL meeting** is October 5th, 6:00pm. The first middle school **band concert is** October 8th, 7:00pm, BPS Auditorium. Kindergarten through 3rd Grade will visit Langfeldt's Pumpkin Farm on October 13th**. October 15th is Grandparents'/Special Person's Day!**

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be October 21st and 22nd. **Fall Break is October 16th-19th.**

PTL is also planning to join the town **Trunk or Treat event on October 25th, 5:00-7:00pm** with a decorated car. They are collecting **candy donations** in the box in the narthex, under the tract rack.

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.

🍕 CHURCH FAMILY DINNER 🍰

Come Join Us for Food, Fellowship & Family!

Sunday, October 25th
11:30 AM — Following the Service

❤️‍🩹 YOU'RE INVITED!

We would love for **you and your family** to join us for a special congregational dinner!

This is a wonderful opportunity for our church family to **come together, enjoy a meal, fellowship with one another, and welcome our newest members**. Whether you have been with us for years or are new to our congregation, **you are an important part of our church family!**

🍕 THE MENU

Pizza • Salads • Desserts

Pizza and salads will be provided for everyone.

Please bring a dessert to share!

❤️‍🩹 WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US!

Let's come together as a church family for an afternoon of **good food, great fellowship, and time spent with one another.**

We can't wait to see you there!

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

October Mission of the Month: Worship Anew

1) Worship Anew is available to watch via television, DVD subscription and the internet.

2) Hope-Full Living is a quarterly publication with uplifting, Christ-centered daily devotions written by seniors, for seniors.

3) "Newer" programs – Care Ministry and Grief Ministry

For more information go to www.worshipanew.org

PTL Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Hacienda fundraiser!

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

Last month's article addressed concerns with kids starting back to school and this month is to emphasize the importance of Sunday School. Families are so busy in today's society that choices must be made in regard to priorities on how to spend that precious time. With all the concerns about issues in today's society, what priority is spent on your children's spiritual well-being? Do you spend time discussing spiritual matters at home, attend church and Sunday School on a regular basis? Research conducted by Lifeway Research asking the question if Sunday School and small groups are important to the success of a church as it seeks to make disciples and the answer was a **resounding yes**.

Sunday School provides the opportunity to get to know your church family in a smaller setting than in the church worship setting. The subject material is age appropriate and discussion can take place. The Christian Board of Education is trying not to duplicate what is learned in religion instruction at St. Paul's School. We strive to build a Biblical foundation so they may grow in their faith. As stated by Coursepivot in a publication

dated June 24, 2026, research has shown that people who attended Sunday School regularly as children are more likely to remain connected to a faith community as adults, more likely to read the Bible independently, and more likely to pass faith on to their own children. Sunday School is one of the consistent and accessible pathways to Biblical literacy, character formation, and lifelong faith. Weekly instruction is what shapes how students understand God, themselves, and the world.

The Evangelism Board will be sharing selections from the tract "What Lutherans Teach". This month we will look at the 'Devil and Hell'.

Lutherans teach that there is a great host of powerful evil spirits (called devils by the Bible), who are the bitter enemies of God and His church, and who have been cast down to hell; and that at the Last Day all those human beings who have died without faith in Christ will be consigned to the same hell of eternal torment and doom. References - Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Jude 6; Matthew 25:41; Isaiah 66:24.

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.

Green Pastures

Psalm 23:1-2 – The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

"I shall not want," our psalm proclaims. "I will lack nothing; I will have everything I need." That bold statement expresses our confidence in the Shepherd who cares for us. Still, that confidence we claim can fail very easily. In the face of trouble and need, we grow concerned. Just how far can we stretch our finances? We worry about paying bills, buying groceries, providing clothing for our families. Even if we are not concerned about those necessary things, the temptations of the world around us, the ever-hungry consumer culture in which we live, and our own selfish desires lead us to *want* quite a bit. We want;—and think we need;—more "stuff." We wish we had more money to buy more material possessions. We need much and want more.

When we become anxious about things we want and need, our Good Shepherd gently reminds us that we are *not* the only creatures in His green pastures. The Shepherd directs our attention to the birds and the lilies that share our pasture. Birds do not grow crops or worry about storing up food, yet God feeds them. Lilies don't weave cloth or even shop in department stores, yet the flowers' brilliant colors outshine even the rich, royal robes of King Solomon. God clothes the green pastures in bright grass that is alive one day and cut down and burned the next. God knows our needs (see Matthew 6:25-33). If He provides for the birds and grass and lilies, how much more will He care for the sheep for whom the Shepherd died?

God knew out greatest need. We were lost and wandering sheep, unable to save ourselves, unable to find the safety and comfort of His green pastures. God the Son was born among us to be our Shepherd and our Savior. The Shepherd came to be the perfect Lamb of sacrifice, to offer up His life for the sins of every lost sheep. On the first Easter morning, God "brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep" (Hebrews 13:20). Our sins are forgiven, and we have been brought by faith into the Shepherd's fold. He continues to seek and to save lost sheep and, rejoicing, brings them home to His green pastures and still waters. He satisfies our every need. For if God gave us His Son, "how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32b)

Anxious sheep would do well to pay attention to where they are and to whom they belong, and to stop seeking those imaginary, greener pastures. If we are to be concerned about something, the Shepherd reminds us to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. The Shepherd's precious sheep need only concern themselves with the green pastures provided for them and the paths of righteousness in which their Shepherd leads them. The Shepherd will take care of the rest.

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!

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! Our discussion of **parables** continues. In October we will study "The Parable of the Talents," "The Parable of the Great Feast," "The Unforgiving Servant," and "The Parable of the Hidden Treasure." . . . . taught by Wendy Coxey . . . . 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Grades 2-8 (Meet in the Day School)

Jeanette Rettinger and Barb Middaugh will continue their discussion of "Bible Basics – Teach the Kids how to use and (& Love) their Bibles!" The last lesson of the month, "God's Word is Our Foundation," comes from the Answers in Genesis series. The Bible is perfect and true. If we use it as our foundation, it will guide our thoughts and change our lives. 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 – how we defend our faith with truth of Scripture in today's world where Christianity is under constant attack. Learn to be more confident in the truth of God's Word, recognize the lies of this world – whether

old or new – and seek ways to share the hope that is in us with the people who are held captive by those lies. The study will be led by the team of Dave Burcham, Terry Miller, and Jarrod Thomas. . . . . 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. (October 14, October 28)

Thursday Morning Ladie's Bible Study (Emmaus Room)

Barb Middaugh is currently leading a study entitled, **Wherever Love May Lead.** This class meets every Thursday morning, 9:30-10:45 a.m. All ladies are welcome!

ALTAR GUILD

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 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 up 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.

All Women of St. Paul's: Please join the ladies of St. Paul's LWML on Monday, October 5th, at 6:30 in the Bethany Room. After a short meeting, a representative from RETA (Reason Enough to Act) will speak to us about their work as a non-profit organization working with pregnant women and families to offer medical services, mental health support, mentorship and education, and family resources. They walk alongside people through every stage of life because transformation happens through connection, not just service. If you would like to support this ministry they are asking for disposable diapers size: 5, 6, and 7, as well as "Pull-ups". If you cannot make the meeting, but would still like to donate, place them next to the LWML box in the Narthex under the green RETA sign. Thank you for your generosity and see you there!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

October 2026

ANNIVERSARIES

2	Lee & Janet Anglemyer
3	Joe & Ashley Potoczky
5	Kyle & Samantha Hinds Jon & Jeanette Rettinger
8	Eric & Kali Foster
13	Joe & Angie Hughes
14	Rick & DeAnn Napper Kenny & Lindsi Knigga II
21	Wayne & Robin Spicher
30	John & Laura Stayton

BIRTHDAYS

2	John Pulliam II
3	Tom Coxey
5	Logan Nick Sophia Sahlhoff Lila VanSoest
6	Michael Ernsperger
8	Jessica Wildauer Andrew Yoder
10	Ellia Foster Ashley Potoczky
13	David Wildauer
14	Piper Napper Melonee Schutz
16	Liam Spencer
17	Lewis Leeper Melonia Russell Diana Schoof
18	Jim Russell
19	Betty Sahlhoff
20	Grayli Hughes
22	Joe Potoczky
23	Martha Heuberger
25	Curt Nielsen Bill Rogers
26	Kay Miller Cameron Owens
27	Wyatt Beasley
28	Dave Burcham
29	Sylvia Blakley Judy Chrisman
30	Amy Shepherd Diane Sherk
31	Ben Andrews



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

Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives

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

October 4 19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11 ⁎ 20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 18 21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 25 ⁎ 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

October Minor Festivals: **18** St. Luke, Evangelist • **23** St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus & Martyr • **28** St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles • **31** Reformation Day • *Commemorations:* **7** Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Pastor • **9** Abraham • **11** Philip the The Deacon • **17** Ignatius Of Antioch, Pastor & Martyr • **25 Dorcas**, **Lydia**, & **Phoebe** Faithful Women • **26 Philipp Nicolai**, **Johann Heermann**, & **Paul Gerhardt** Hymnwriters •



THE WINDOWS OF ST. PAUL'S

THE LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei) 1958

2nd window S: In memory of Mr. Edward L/ Kiefer

The LAMB with CRUCIFORM, or Tri-Radiant, HALO symbolizes Jesus, who is True God.

He carries the BANNER Of VICTORY, as Jesus' work of redemption is complete and Satan is defeated.

He stands upon the BOOK Of LIFE.

THREE SEALS evoke the Trinity, and refer to Revelation 5: only The Lamb is worthy to open the seals and judge the world.

This window declares:

Jesus, the Lamb, is our Savior, God, and Judge.

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." **John 1:32 +**

"And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it was He that was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead." **Acts 10:42 +**

REFORMATION DAY, OCT. 31: Reformation means "to straighten thoroughly," and "rectification."

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed The Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Wittenburg church. His intent was to *debate* the unscriptural practice of selling indulgences. After one confessed to a priest and received absolution, the priest then imposed a penalty (penance): usually consisting of a set number of prayers; a pilgrimage to a saint's shrine; and often, some physical hardship. Indulgences allowed 'penitents' to exchange a sum of money instead of *doing* the penance.

Martin's hope was that the Roman Church of his day would **1)** reform its errant ways and return to sound Biblical teaching regarding justification by faith in Jesus alone; *rather than* on a combination of faith and *merit* (a worthiness earned by doing devotional works); and **2)** make Scripture the sole authority for all doctrine; *rather than* a combination of the Bible and the 'oral tradition of the apostles,' as interpreted by popes and councils.

Martin got his chance to present his position at the Diet (debate, council) of Worms (a city), but after refusing to recant his position he was excommunicated; then declared an outlaw (with a price on his head). Once it was safe to return

home, he had no recourse but to 'start' a church if he wished to preach the gospel.

In derision his enemies called those who adopted his confession based on salvation by GRACE ALONE through FAITH ALONE in CHRIST ALONE all to the GLORY OF GOD ALONE according to SCRIPTURE ALONE by the name 'Lutheran.' Though the appellation stuck, Luther would have preferred something else since he did not see himself as the 'founder' of a *new* church, but as a man used by God to *return* the church to her first century apostolic foundation. + + +

"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened.
And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.
And the dead were judged according to their works,
by the things which were written in the books.
The sea gave up the dead who were in it,
And Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them.
And they were judged, each one according to his works.
Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.
This is the second death.
And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:12-15 +