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

The EPISTLE November 2026

Address:

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Bremen, IN 46506

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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, T, W, F

8:00 – 12:00pm

From Pastor Wonnacott's Keyboard:

Celebrate Families

In the Word:

Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing (1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV).

Of the Word:

Families used to live in close proximity and came together on a regular basis. Now families are scattered around the country and sometimes even around the world. Although technology allows for daily written or visual contact, nothing can replace a family gathering. Hugs are shared, laughter flows, conversations continue through the night. Being in the presence of those you love, and who love you, can certainly lift your spirits. These folks have seen your struggles and your triumphs. Family celebrates with you, cries with you, and inspires you.

Paul understood the importance of family gatherings, especially for the early church. Sometimes the joy of

our salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection can be dimmed by responsibilities and concerns. Our gracious Father gives us families as a reminder of His personal love for us. Whether with relatives or friends in the faith, God wants us to encourage each other. Families share. Families pray. Families forgive. Celebrate families!

Walking with my Lord:

Lord, thank You for placing me in a family. Help me to love them as You love me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Everyday Celebrations. Authors: Elaine Bickel and Jan Struck. 18/28
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THE DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER EPISTLE IS NOVEMBER 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, November 20th 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

November usually brings to mind thoughts of thankfulness and praise. We are very thankful for our preschool here at St. Paul's where we share Jesus with so many families and ask the Holy Spirit to inspire a life of Christian service in each child.

School Corner

Happy Thanksgiving!

We are thankful for all of you! Thank you for all of the ways you support the school- financially, through volunteerism, and in prayer! We are blessed to provide a Christian education to our students and to develop relationships with our families.

November starts with the next PTL Meeting on November 2nd at 6:00 pm in the Jerusalem Room. All parents/grandparents of students are invited.

The first band concert for 5th Grade and the high school is November 4th , 7:00 pm at BPS. The HS Marching Band will be highlighting their Marching Band show. The 5th Grade will be performing for the first time! This is a FREE concert.

You are welcome to attend the Pilgrim Meal on November 17th at 6:00 pm in the Bethany Room! Enjoy good food and fellowship. Bring a dessert and get to know our teachers and student families. The charity we will be donating for that night is to be announced.

We need to replenish our SGO account! Last school year, we provided over $53,000inscholarships 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 8thGrade, 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.

Annual Clothing Drive for Hope Ministries - November is the month we collect clothing for our neighbors to the north. Any gently used clothing is needed for men, women, and children. We will have a table in the narthex with signs (Hope Ministries Clothing Drive) so please place your items on the table and on November 30th we will deliver them to Hope! May we as God's people share with those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Wonnacott.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship is November 25th at 5:00 pm. Let us come together to give thanks to the Lord for all that He has given us and continues to provide for us!

You are invited to our Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner on November 26th at noon. The Boards of Public Relations and Parish Fellowship are sponsoring

this event. If you and your family or someone you know will be alone on Thanksgiving Day please come to the Fellowship Hall at noon for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. We can deliver to your home for those who are homebound. Please sign up on the table in the narthex or call the church office at 574-546-2332. **The deadline to sign up is November 16th**. We will need to know your name; if you are dining in or need delivery; number of people; and your phone number. Please sign up if you can make a turkey, bring a pie, set up, greet, serve, or clean up on that day. Join us to give thanks to the Lord and serve others!

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

November Mission of the Month: Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT)

Your prayers and gifts bring the hope, life, and transformation of God's Word to people still waiting to hear Him speak in their heart language.

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

This month and following months some content will come from a booklet titled, "The Ideals of a Young Lutheran." This was published in 1925 but its ideals are timeless. The first chapter is "My Dear Old Church." As part of the confirmation vows, catechumens agree to the statement "I Confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran

Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true." It is a special privilege to be a Christian in the Lutheran Church as its teachings are in strict accord with the Holy Scriptures. Catechumens also vow to continue steadfast in the confession of faithfulness to hear the Word of God, receive the Lord's Supper faithfully, and live according to God's Word and remain true to the Triune God and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it? Only by God's strength and grace can we fulfill and keep these promises. We should all do everything in our power to put a priority on growing in our faith. As a Lutheran, we should endeavor to attend the public divine services of the Lutheran Church. As soon as a child can read, they should participate in the service in the liturgy and singing hymns with the congregation.

The booklet emphasizes the importance of "attending Sunday School far beyond the time of my confirmation." During the time of confirmation instruction, the fundamentals of the Christian faith are learned and there is a need to become more intimately acquainted with the teachings of the Bible. Participation in social activities within the church are also important. It is also important to share faith with others and invite them to church.

The Evangelism Board has been sharing selections from the tract "What Lutherans Teach". This month we will look at "Death and After".

Lutherans teach that the body, which in death was separated from the soul, will be raised on the Last Day and be reunited with the soul; that all men will be judged by Jesus Christ; that all believers in Christ will be given eternal life in heaven, while all unbelievers will be sent into eternal condemnation. References - John 5:28,29; Matthew 25:31-46. Review these passages so that you are able to better witness to those around you!

The Windows of St. Paul's
The Seal of Heaven
The Circular Field represents eternity in heaven, the dwelling place of God. palms are an ancient symbol associated with worship; and are signs of celebration (as they were used for Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem). The saints in heaven are depicted carrying palm branches as they praise the Lamb. The Stars represent the saints in glory bathed in the rays of glory extending from the Crown. This is Christ's crown, the King of kings, whose death reconciles us to God; and gives all believers His own righteousness, hence the color of the stars reflect His golden crown.
Leviticus 23:40, Daniel 12:3, John 12:12,13, Revelation 7:8,9; 14:14; 15:3, 21:23



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.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1
Psalm 136 calls believers to give thanks for many reasons, the main one being that God's gracious love — His forgiveness and mercy in Jesus Christ — endures forever. Similarly, Saint Paul admonishes us to "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
How can we give thanks when we are sick, lose our job or a loved one, or find ourselves in other sad circumstances? The answer is that God still loves us. In bad times God draws us to Himself in a special show of love and reveals Himself as a mighty and merciful helper. He is there when we sorely need Him, and our problems often make us appreciate His love more.
An uplifting experience for us Christians is to begin our daily prayers with thanksgiving — with thanks to God for His Word, for our Savior and the Spirit-created faith in Him, for our church, our family and friends, our health, hope, money, home, automobile, and other blessings. Not all Christians will have the

same list of blessings, but all will have a long list. Praying with thankful hearts comes from the conviction that God is good and that His love for us in Christ endures forever.

(Taken from "Words of Promise," copyright 1996 (out of print), Concordia Publishing House.)

LifeLight started 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

JUST A REMINDER . . . On November 1st all Sunday School Classes will be held at our former church building on 214 East South Street as part of the 180th Anniversary of St. Paul's congregation and All Saints Day. Grades PreK thru Grade 8 will learn about Martin Luther. Mark Wildauer's High School Class will discuss "courage" to stand for one's faith. Pastor Rohde will lead the Adult Class in Bible study. All classes meet 8:30-9:15 a.m.

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 November we will study the parables of "The Net," "The Rich Fool," "The Ten Virgins," and "The Watchful Servants." . . . . taught by Wendy Coxey . . . . 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Grades 2-8 (Meet in the Day School)
Jeanette Rettinger and Barb Middaugh will complete their discussion of Bible basics. 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. (November 11, November 25)

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

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! Come check out the Guild!

It is time to be thinking about flowers for the church during the Christmas season! If you would like to donate for poinsettias you may

drop your donation in the offering box in an envelope marked poinsettias or you may give your donation to any altar guild member. Thank you!

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 would like 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.

News and Notes

****THANK YOU to everyone who donated their coins to "Make a Change" September. Over $140 dollars was sent to mission projects.*

****THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for the Welcome Bags for first year seminarians and deaconesses at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. The bags were delivered on October 14th.*

****From November 1-25, the St. Paul's Women in Mission are gathering non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items for the students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.*

Deaconess Katherine Rittner suggested a few items that are not usually donated: packaged individual pizza crusts, pizza sauce, pepperoni, dark or light kidney beans, tortilla shells, and chopped green chili peppers. (Surprised?)

ALL donations are welcome and provide an extra measure of support to the students through the CTSFW Food Co-op. There is a box in the church narthex for donations. Thank you for your generosity. Any questions can be directed to Janet Miller, Linda Tinkey, Barb Middaugh, or Jeanette Rettinger.

Birthdays & Anniversaries
November 2026

ANNIVERSARIES

4 Mike & Cathy Dietl
Dan & Julie Fox

10 Chad & Katie Goze

20 Mark & Lisa Matejka

25 Mike & Barbara Stillson

BIRTHDAYS

1 Helen Bellman

2 Keyante Green

4 Linda Moser

6 Debra Schmidt

7 Chad Schmeltz

9 Casey Dietl
Matthew VanSoest
30 Lillian Salyer

10 Ellen Augustine
Hayden Dobbins
Gabriella Guerrero
Mateo Guerrero

11 Greg Oberlin

12 Tonya Hundt

17 Kylie Perkins

19 Michael Dietl
Cheyenne Ernsperger

20 Ada Sahlhoff
Justin Schmitt
Ashley Trigg
Robert Yoder

22 Wendy Coxey
Hunter Miller
Autumn Napper

25 Molly Lynch
Doug Owens

27 Staci Gunter
Tim Harman

28 Nathan Miller

29 Joyce Evans
Rachel Rogers



Oh, give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 107:1