

St. Paul's Lutheran

From the desk of Pastor Rohde:

Address:

605 S. Center St.
Bremen, IN 46506

Telephone:

Church:
1-574-546-2332
School:
1-574-546-2790
Preschool:
1-574-546-2848

Fax:

1-574-546-3242

E-Mail:

church@stpaulsbremen.org

Website:

stpaulsbremen.org
facebook.com/stpaulsbremen

Church Office Hours:

M,W,Th, F 8:30 – 11:30 am

Sunday Schedule:

Worship: 8 & 10:30 am
Sunday School & Adult
Bible Class: 9:15 am
Unity Sunday: 9:30 am with
Sunday School following

Pastors:

Rev. Roger Rohde
Office Hours:
M & Th 8:30 – 11:30
1-574-209-0306 (H)

Rev. Neil Wonnacott
Office Hours:
W & F 8:30 – 11:30
1-574-301-9291 (H)

During our early days of dating Loretta would say to me, “Guard your heart!” It was a word of caution. She wanted to make sure that I was not moving forward too quickly after Jeri’s death. Too many people do not guard their hearts in such situations and get involved with another person before properly going through a grieving process. I thank Loretta for her concern and guiding words on this matter.

It is interesting that God gives us the same type of instruction in His Word as He talks to us about our relationship with Him. For example, the Lord tells us: “Return to Me with all your heart.... Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love” (Joel 2:12-13).

God is concerned about our hearts, because He knows of their evil inclinations. In Genesis 6:5, the Lord states: “Every inclination of the thoughts of man’s heart was only evil all the time.” In Genesis 8:21, God reiterates: “Every inclination of man’s heart is evil from childhood.” Through the psalmist David God informs us: “Surely the mind and heart of man are cunning” (64:6).

The Lord is greatly concerned about our hearts and therefore speaks to us about guarding them. The reason for this instruction is that the start of sin in our lives is not from outside of us but from within us. Jesus declares: “For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean’” (Mark 7:21-22).

Our hearts are of utmost concern to our Lord. Hence, He speaks of us “circumcising our hearts” (Deuteronomy 10:16), having them be “fully committed to the Lord” (I Kings 8:61), and “setting our heart on seeking God” (II Chronicles 12:14). The Lord truly wants us to guard our hearts that our relationship with Him will be intimate. He came to save us from our sins. He died on the cross to pay the debt of our sins, and He rose again to give us new life in Him and with Him. He wants us always to remain close to Him by guarding our hearts. As the Lord instructs us in Proverbs 23:26 – “My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to My ways.”

Lesson in Stewardship: It Is to Be Heartfelt

We all have done things half-heartedly. There are some things we do in life not because we feel excited about doing them, but because we feel it is our obligation. Did you realize your walk with Christ – going to church and Bible classes, serving within the church in some capacity, even the giving of your offerings – can take place because you feel obligated to do so?

Doing something out of a feeling of obligation may accomplish something good, but it is not viewed by God as a good work. As the Lord speaks about us helping others and giving monetary gifts, He specifically instructs us: “Do so without a grudging heart” (Deuteronomy 15:10). “God loves a cheerful giver” (II Corinthians 9:7). The motivation for all we do is not to be the Law – “I have to do it,” but the Gospel – “I want to love Him and others, because He (Jesus) first loved me.”

We are not to be moved by the Law of God in our lives, but by His mercy and grace. The Law of God tells us what He wants us to do. The Gospel enables us to do it with a heart of love and gratitude. “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER EPISTLE IS SEPTEMBER 22ND!!! Epistle articles, comments, ideas may be deposited in the epistle box in the Narthex mail slots or better yet e-mailed to Deb Burcham at dburcham@stpaulsbremen.org. I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

Board Briefs:

Christian Education:

Sunday School Mission of the Month – Burmese Ministry - \$75

On the last day of the Sunday School quarter, August 30th, we will be celebrating **RALLY DAY!** Children will be participating in an animated “Wax Museum” where some will be dressed as a character they learned about during Summer Sunday School. Congregation members will have an opportunity to “converse with a bible character” as the students depict their favorite Bible person.

Children will be moving to the classes that correspond to their current year in school on September 6th.

New Sunday School Classes beginning September 6th:

Pastor Wonnacott: Baptism, Confirmation and the Lord's Supper

Dave: Book of Joshua

Pre K : Megan & Jennifer

K-1: ?

2-3: Roxanne

4-5-6: Ellen

7-8: Jeanette

High School: Kelly and Kyle

Church Office: Membership Changes

Baptisms: Zachary
Micah
Caleb

Wedding: Martha Heuberger to Al Schroeder

Lifelight will take place from September 16th through November 11th. Sessions are each Wednesday from 6:45 - 8:15 p.m. This year's Lifelight topic is the Book of Ezekiel. Please look for a registration form in this epistle.

Parish Fellowship:

Co-Ed Volleyball will be on Thursday, September 10th from 7 to 9pm for all men and women ages 14 and up. Bring a friend.

Ping-Pong will be on Thursday, September 17th from 7 to 9pm for all men and women for adults ages 14 and up. Bring a friend.

Euchre Party is Friday, September 11th, from 7-9:00pm in the Bethany Room. Anyone 16 and older can join us for fun and fellowship, and please bring a snack to share. Please bring cards and a card table if possible. Beverages will be provided. Come and bring a friend!

Board Briefs cont.

Men's Group takes place on Sunday, September 13th & 27th from 4-6pm for all men ages 15 and above. We will meet in the gym for basketball and fellowship and will close with a prayer.

Stewardship:

St. Paul's church now a part of AmazonSmile Charity Program

At no expense to church members, Amazon will now donate 0.5% of most purchases made by church members to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bremen. Again, this is at no expense to church members and is a donation from Amazon.

To register, go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to bookmark smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at the AmazonSmile Program.

This program does not affect any of your present Amazon Account settings.

Calling on all church members. The time is drawing near when interest will need to be paid on the gymnasium loan. It is in our best interest to nip this project in the bud and increase our offerings to decrease the principal before interest starts accumulating.

If you have already been participating, please consider increasing your pledge amount. For members that have never contributed, now would be a great time to start by using the blue envelopes. Reactivating your pledge is also an effective way to get this project behind us. Your offering will be very helpful. Thank You.

2015 Parish Planning Committee meetings: October 26

2015 Voters Assembly meeting: November 23

Altar Guild: September attendant is Heather.

Altar Flowers in September:

6	Joe & Cheryl
13	
20	Elaine & Kay
27	Bob & Nancy



The Altar Flower Chart for the 2015 Liturgical Year is hanging in the Narthex (North side), just outside the altar guild room door. Please look it over and sign up for flowers.



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!!

The LEG ladies are studying "How Should Christians Live?" The study is on the books of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. We meet on the odd-numbered Sunday evenings (1st, 3rd, and 5th) in the Jerusalem Room at 7pm. Contact the church office or call Joanna to reserve your copy of the study guide. We are looking forward to welcoming you!

Ladies Encouragement Group
Moving our feet, shining our light!

Bible Study Opportunities Cont.

WE HAVE A JOB FOR MEN

If you are a male of high school age or older, St. Paul's has a "job" for you. It is not an easy task, but it's one that every man has been given to carry out....to study God's word, obey His commandments and live a life that is pleasing to Him....a job we can never retire from.

The Men's Breakfast Bible Study meets every other week on Wednesday morning from 6:30AM to 7:30 AM and through fellowship and Bible study we help each other in our "jobs" that God has given us. The food and fellowship often create laughter that we all enjoy. Please come and learn with the rest of us. Our schedule for 2015 is as follows:

September 9, 23 October 7, 21 November 4, 18 December 2, 16

We meet in the cafeteria conference room in the Bremen Hospital. Come in the main entrance, walk straight ahead to the waiting area, then turn left...the cafeteria and conference room are on your left.



©CoolCups.com



Calling all ladies. The Thursday Morning Bible Study group will resume meeting on September 10 (first Thursday after Labor Day), and finish the study "Divine Design." If you did not attend last year, each chapter begins a new topic so you will not be lost. Come join the ladies of Thursday Morning for fellowship and study of the Word. Start time is 9:00 am, with devotions, a hymn or two, time of sharing (optional), Bible study, & fellowship.

REGISTRATION FOR LIFELIGHT

(Pre-registration helps to make sure we have an ample supply of materials!)

Ezekiel is the Book of the Bible We Will Discuss

**Each Wednesday...Sept. 16th through Nov. 11h
6:45 to 8:15 p.m.**

Names(s)

Telephone: _____

PLEASE return to church office by Sept 6th Thank you!

SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

School Office phone: 546-2790

Fax: 546-3242

e-mail: schools@stpaulsbremen.org

September 2015

Our theme for the 2015-2016 school year is Life Together. This is based on I Cor. 1:9 (ESV). We give thanks to God for His gracious love to all of us!

Here are our monthly CHAPEL PROJECTS /offerings for 2015-2016:

Aug/Sept.- Bremen Food Bank & Fort Wayne Seminary Food Bank

Oct - Liberian Schools

Nov /Dec-Bethesda Homes

Jan/Feb - Seminarian Support

Mar - Camp Lutherhaven

Apr – L.A.M.B.

May – Worship for Shut-Ins

Plus->\$20/ mo. to the Tuition Aid Fund

Contact the school office if you would like more information, or would like to contribute.

VOLUNTEER FOR THIS COMING YEAR! We welcome all helpers, even one-time helpers. We can use your assistance with a variety of tasks. If you would like to help please contact the school office.

THE TUITION AID FUND seeks your contributions to help those who desire a Christian Education for their children but who need a little help to meet the costs. Your generosity will greatly benefit the cause of Christian Education for both members and non-members. We are also seeking donors who would like to SPONSOR a child or family directly. Please contact Mr. Russell.

PTL: Please save ALUMINUM CANS. These cans may be deposited in the shed on the south end of the parking lot. If you have other aluminum items to donate, call the school office at 546-2790. Also please save the small logo printed on the labels or the lids/caps of CAMPBELL LABELS items. Thank you.

Please check the Church Calendar for school events.

NOTE: Contact the church or school office if you have questions concerning scheduling the use of any of the facilities.

September Devotion: "The Most Important Day"

*This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
...Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.
Psalm 118:24, 29*

Which is the most important day of my life? The day I was born? The last day of my school years? The day I got my first job?

This is the day says the psalmist. My red-letter day is today. Because of what I do and say today, the world and I will not be quite the same as yesterday.

This is the day the Lord has made. To me it may be a miserable day, yet all is happening according to His divine plan. The day may seem full of confusion, yet God is fulfilling promises each hour of this day. Everything may appear to be going wrong, yet "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28).

Therefore I can rejoice today and be glad. This day is a day of hope. God promises His presence in the midst of discouragement. This day is a day of peace. Jesus is still the Savior. His forgiveness and mercy are mine. This is a day of prayer. God is not "out." He is on call day and night.

This day, then, is the most important because it is now that I live, work, serve, and speak of God's wondrous love through Christ who saved me.

PRAYER: Lord, enrich each hour with opportunities to make this day worthwhile and well remembered. Then Yours shall be the praise and the honor from this time on; in Jesus' name. Amen.