

*Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Schools -
Bremen, In*

The **EPISTLE**
2015

October

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)

In last month's Epistle we wrote on the topic of guarding our hearts. The Lord's great desire is that we be wholly dedicated to Him with all of our heart, and soul, and mind "(Matthew 22:37). In this month's article we want to consider a few tactics that Satan uses to keep our hearts from being fully committed to Christ.

Pride can lead us away from God. This pride can raise its evil ways through our view of ourselves with regard to our looks, our intelligence, our possessions, and even our religious activities. Pride has us think everything is well with us and we don't really need God. God in Deuteronomy said to His people: "Your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, Who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" (8:14). Proverbs 16:18 notes: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." It is important that we always remember we are what we are by God's grace. If we let pride have hold of our hearts, we will forget about the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus. Satan would like nothing better.

Anger can consume our hearts and destroy our relationship to Christ. Paul writes in Ephesians 4: "Do not let the sun go down while your are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.... Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgive you" (26-27, 31-32).

Sexual desires can be a powerful means Satan uses to lead us astray. Sex is a gift from God, but it is only used in a godly fashion when it is used between one man and one woman in marriage. Sexual desires or activities outside of marriage are impure and can lead to destruction. God tells us: "I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). When people did not heed the voice of God with regard to sexual purity, it is noted: "Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator - Who is forever praised. Amen (Romans 1:24-25).

These are just a few of the feelings of our hearts that Satan can use to destroy our souls. Prayer is very important to us maintaining hearts that are true to God, and fear, love, and trust in Him above all things. The Prophet Ezekiel proclaimed to God's people: "Rid

yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone,' declares the Sovereign Lord, 'Repent and live'" (18:31-32).

May we daily include in our prayer life a prayer like David's: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your generous Spirit" (Psalm 51:10-12).

Lesson in Stewardship: Know that God Has a Plan for You

Cliff Barrows served as Billy Graham's lifelong associate and crusade song leader. In 1945, before he met Billy Graham, Barrows and his fiancée, Billie, had scraped together enough funds for a simple wedding and two train tickets to a city with a resort hotel. On arrival, however, they found the hotel shut down. Stranded in an unfamiliar city with little money, they thumbed a ride. A sympathetic driver took them to a grocery store owned by a woman he knew. The newlyweds spent their first night in a room above the store. The next day, when the lady overheard Cliff playing Christian songs on his trombone, she arranged for them to spend the rest of their honeymoon at a friend's house. Several days later the host invited them to attend a youth rally where a young evangelist was speaking. The song leader that night was sick, and Cliff was asked to take charge of the music for the service. The young evangelist, of course, was Billy Graham. The two have been partners ever since.

When things do not seem to be going the way you have planned, don't give up the ship. God may have other plans for you. Live, work, serve, and give trusting in these words of our Lord: "I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). Is that not indeed what we have through Christ Jesus, our Savior?

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER EPISTLE IS OCTOBER 20TH!!! 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 – Worship For Shut-Ins - \$75

Church Office: Membership Changes

Baptisms:

Bradyn

Re-affirmation of Faith:

Anthony & Melanie Released:

Eric, Angela, Emilie & Owen

Transferred in:

Mark, Heidi, Noah, Jack, Abby, Josephine & Wyatt

Lay Ministry: DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE who is attending one of our two seminaries? The church grants monetary support yearly to two individuals attending one of our seminaries. One of our seminary students has graduated and is serving in his first call. We need a seminary student to replace him. If you know of someone, inform David Burcham with the name and the seminary he is attending.

Parish Fellowship:

Co-Ed Volleyball will be on Thursday, October 1st & 8th from 7 to 9pm for all men and women ages 14 and up. Bring a friend.

Ping-Pong will be on Thursday, October 15th from 7 to 9pm for all men and women for adults ages 14 and up. Bring a friend.

Euchre Party is Friday, October 23rd, 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!

Men's Group will be on Sunday, October 11th & 25th 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.

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Reminder: OCTOBER 18TH IS A UNITY SUNDAY – CHURCH AT 9:30 AM AND BIBLE CLASSES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:45AM.
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Mini- Breakfast on October 18th at 8:30am. Please sign up on the “Check It Out Board” by the ladies’ restroom.

BOARD BRIEFS CONT:

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.

Youth:

ATTENTION YOUTH! We are looking forward to seeing you at the following events. The Jr. Youth have Youth nights on October 9th, 30th, and November 6. Come for gym activities and fellowship.

The Jr. and Sr. Youth are both invited to the 5th Quarter on Friday, October 16th at the Schmeltz Home at 2494 State Road 331, Bremen. Come for bonfire, fun and snacks. It will meet from 10 P.M. - 12 A.M. Dress for the weather.

The Jr. and Sr. High Youth will be doing a service project of helping rake leaves. We will need all willing youth to help on November 7. More info to follow.

2015 Parish Planning Committee: Oct. 26 - Voters Assembly: Nov. 23

***** CUT *****

Public Relations and Evangelism Boards invite you to a full morning of fellowship, worship, and study on October 18th. We will begin the morning with a mini-breakfast at 8:30am; then at 9:30am we will worship our Lord in the sanctuary followed by Bible classes and Sunday school at 10:45am.

We will close out the morning and begin the afternoon with a **New Member / Friendship Sunday Pizza Hut dinner** in the fellowship hall. We ask that you would bring a dessert to share. Please use the bottom portion of this page to let us know if you are attending the dinner and how many will be attending.

_____ NAME- YES, I AM ATTENDING THE DINNER

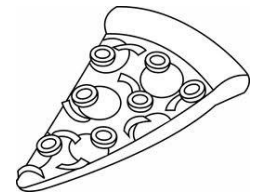
_____ Number of people attending

Return to church office or place in the offering plate by October 11th.

Altar Guild: October attendant is Heather.

Altar Flowers in October:

- 4 Jon & Jeanette
- 11 Wayne & Robin
- 18
- 25



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Reminder: OCTOBER 18TH IS A UNITY SUNDAY – CHURCH AT 9:30AM AND BIBLE CLASSES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:45AM.

Light the Night will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the gym. There will be games, a craft and food for all to enjoy. Come dressed in costume! (Bremen's Trick-or-Treat will be held from 5:00-7:00 p.m.)

If any congregation member is in need of assistance with leaf raking, please contact Marilyn Gumz in the Church office by November 1. The Youth will be raking on Saturday, November 7.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rene' and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your persistent prayers, thoughtful cards/gifts, as well as so many kind words of encouragement. Saying that it was a difficult 2 years between Calls is an understatement. Yet we know that whether we are pleased with what is going on or not, the Lord remains faithful to His promises and to His people and His grace is always sufficient.

Please know that St. John's is a wonderful place in spectacular surroundings. Our living accommodations are spacious and very nice. Above all, the people here are hard working, faithful, and loving.

If you happen to be in the area we have plenty of space.

The Lord's continued blessings to each and every one of you,

Rodney and Rene'
12468 E CR 1160 N.
Evanston, IN 47531

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Rest Mats are Coming!

Extended Care has been granted a Thrivent Action Team Project to acquire Rest Mats for the children to use during Rest Time. The Thrivent Action Team Card will be used to purchase some mats. They will be cleaned and put away each day. We are asking for monetary donations to purchase additional mats, a storage unit, and small fleece blankets. A box will be set up in the Narthex to collect the blankets. If you would like to give a monetary donation, place it in an envelope marked Extended Care Mats. and put it in the offering plate.

For further information about this project, contact Heather Middaugh, Extended Care Director.

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 Fox to reserve your copy of the study guide. We are looking forward to welcoming you!

Ladies Encouragement Group
Moving our feet, shining our light!

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:

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.



Calling all ladies. The **Thursday Morning Bible Study** group is finishing 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.

SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

School Office phone: 546-2790

Fax: 546-3242

e-mail: schools@stpaulsbremen.org

October 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!

OCTOBER brings a busy schedule. We will celebrate Grand-persons Day (Oct. 7) and, later in the month, Reformation Day. We end the first quarter of the school year on Oct. 15. We have Parent-Teacher Conferences on Oct. 21 & 22. The students will also have a one day break on Oct. 23. Please check the October calendar enclosed in the Epistle.

Our offerings in Chapel this month provide support for the Lutheran LIBERIAN SCHOOLS. Plus, we make a \$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.

October 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.