

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)

The month of November contains in it the national designated day on which we give thank to God for all He has done. But is that really at the heart of our Thanksgiving celebrations, and should our giving of thanks go beyond one day a year?

When we picture Thanksgiving Day, we usually picture a family gathering, fine food, football games, and other activities that are special to that day. For many of us we may offer up a special thanksgiving prayer and/or practice some activity we share with one another those things for which we are thankful.

There is a contemporary Christian song entitled: **For All He's Done**. In it Chris Ailman notes how God meets our every need. He sings: "There are many things that I could praise God for and if I started now until I die, there'd still be many more." He then goes on to make this important point: "If I could mention only one, I'd have to thank Him for His Son. Now that's enough to praise the Lord for all He's done."

There are many things we could thank God for every day of our lives. However, the greatest gift He has given us is Jesus. In Jesus' death all our sinful debts have been paid, and through His resurrection we are guaranteed of enjoying a perfect life in heaven. These gifts of God that come to us through Christ are not things that money can buy, nor can we work for them. Jesus is God's gift to us, and through His death and resurrection we are assured of ultimate and eternal victory in heaven.

The greatness of this Gift alone is enough for us to thank God not only on Thanksgiving Day but also throughout the year. Chris Ailman also notes in the song: "For all He's done I'm gonna lift my hands and praise Him. For all He's does I'll try to live my life to please Him, even though I don't deserve to live. I can't help but praise the Lord for all He's done."

The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to write: "Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again" (II Corinthians 5:15). In response to this Martin Luther wrote: "He has redeemed me... that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness."

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and praise the Lord with all your days of living.

## Lesson in Stewardship: Confessing Our Faith Monetarily

In each of our worship service we have time set aside to collect a monetary gift from everyone who is present. The reason we do this is not simply to have money to pay the bills. In reality the collection of our offerings is a confession of our faith.

Our offerings are an act of worship in which we confess our faith in God the Father. Through our offering we acknowledge Him as the One responsible for providing us “with all that we need to support this body and life.” Through our offerings we are confessing our faith in the providential care of God throughout our lives.

Our offerings are an act of worship in which we confess our faith in God the Son. As we bring our offerings to the Lord, we express to Him the gratitude we have for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation He has granted us through His death and resurrection.

Our offerings are an act of worship in which we confess our faith in God the Holy Spirit. Through our offerings we express to the Lord that our treasures are not in the things of this life, but in the faith and love He has granted us.

Our offerings are about more than meeting a budget. First and foremost they are about lifting our hearts, hands, and lives up to the Lord, giving Him thanks for all He has done and expressing our faith in Him.

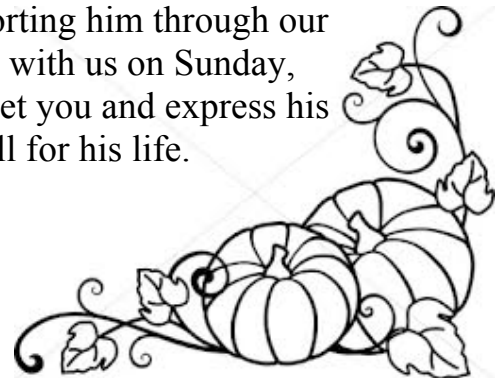
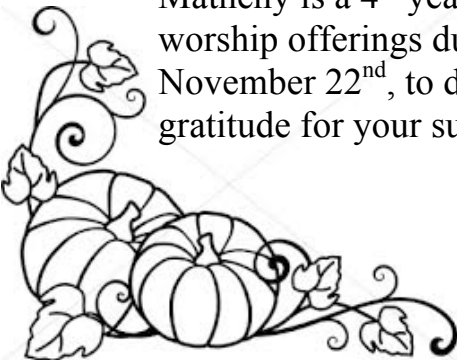
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**THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER EPISTLE IS NOVEMBER 20TH!!!** Epistle articles, comments, ideas may be deposited in the epistle box in the Narthex mail slots or better yet e-mailed to Deb Burcham at [dburcham@stpaulsbremen.org](mailto:dburcham@stpaulsbremen.org). I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our Adopted Seminarian from the St. Louis Seminary is coming to town. Adam Matheny is a 4<sup>th</sup> year seminary student. We have been supporting him through our worship offerings during his seminary education. He will be with us on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, to deliver God’s message and personally meet you and express his gratitude for your support in enabling him to fulfill God’s call for his life.



## **Board Briefs:**

### **Christian Education:**

Sunday School Mission of the Month – Lutheran Bible Translators - \$75

### **Parish Fellowship:**

Co-Ed Volleyball will be on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9pm for all men and women ages 14 and up. Bring a friend.

Ping-Pong will be on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9pm for all men and women for adults ages 14 and up. Bring a friend.

Euchre Party is Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 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, November 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **PR & Evangelism:**

Public Relations and Evangelism Boards are in need of your help for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 26<sup>th</sup>. We need:

1. Pumpkin Pies (20)
2. Set-up people (for the fellowship hall) (4)
3. Servers (6)
4. Drivers to deliver the carry-out orders (4)
5. Clean-up people (for the fellowship hall and kitchen) (4)
6. Greeters (2)

The Whitlock is supplying the mashed potatoes and gravy. The Community Hospital of Bremen is supplying the carry out containers. We also have a Thrivent Action Team box with a \$250.00 Debit card for the cost of the turkey, dressing, tossed salad, and rolls + butter, which will be prepared by Del-Mar Catering. There will be a sign-up list on the "Check It Out board". Prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve the community and our own members.

## BOARD BRIEFS CONT:

### Stewardship:

***Stewardship Board*** has approved our annual clothing drive for Hope Ministries during the month of November. We ask that you would consider donating your gently used clothing for the people of Hope Ministries and the community. There will be a table set up and labeled “Clothes for Hope” in the narthex, during the month of November. The need is for any and all types of clothing. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to help your neighbor in need.

### 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](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to bookmark [smile.amazon.com](http://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:

Jr. Youth night will be held on November 6 from 7 – 9 p.m. Be prepared for fun!

Attention Jr. & Sr. Youth Leaf Rakers: On November 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. we will be raking leaves. Then we have been invited by Carol Bowen to a hot dog roast at her home from 12 -1 p.m. following leaf raking. Please bring rakes and dress for the weather.

Sr. High Youth will have a meeting on November 15 from 12:30 – 2 p.m. Please bring ideas for future activities – fun and service ideas. Pizza will be provided.

### Save the date:

Jr. High Christmas party is December 11. Watch for more information.

Sr. High Christmas party on December 6 during the Sunday School hour.

2015 Voters Assembly: Nov. 23



**Altar Guild: November attendant is Andy & Theresa.**

Altar Flowers in November:

1 Bob & Joan  
9  
15 Paul  
22  
29



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 (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>) in the Jerusalem Room at 7pm. Contact the church office or call Joanna Fox at 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:

**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.



GoodCups.com



**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](mailto:schools@stpaulsbremen.org)

November 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!

The SCHOOL YEAR is already one-quarter of the way over. The first report cards have been issued and parent conferences have been held. Please continue to pray for our students and their families. Please remember to invite parents who have prospective students to seek more information from us. Your positive words of encouragement are often a determining factor in enrolling new families. Registration information can be found in the School Office or at [www.stpaulsbremen.org](http://www.stpaulsbremen.org). Thanks for your help!

Our offerings in Chapel this month (and in December) provide support for Bethesda Lutheran Home and its care for special people of God. We also donate \$20/mo. to the Tuition Aid Fund. Contact the school office if you would like more information about Bethesda, 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.

What's the Reformation all about? It's *still* all about Jesus. It's that simple. Not Martin Luther. Not Philip Melancthon. Not the name "Lutheran," to which we gladly cling as a distinctive and clarifying label. It's all about Jesus — not merely as example but as Savior, the Father's only provision for sin.

Melancthon crystallizes the pressing issue of the Reformation clearly in the Apology (XXVII), where suddenly, in the middle of his writing, he erupts with a petition to Jesus:

O Christ, how long will you endure these insults which our enemies heap upon your gospel! In the [Augsburg] Confession we said that the forgiveness of sins is received freely on account of Christ through faith. If this is not the very voice of the gospel, if it is not the statement of the eternal Father, which you, who are "close to the Father's heart" (John 1:18), have revealed to the world, then the charge against us is true. But your death is a witness, your resurrection is a witness, the Holy Spirit is a witness ...

The Reformation is about the sweet Gospel in Christ — a free, clear gift, apart from any human effort.

Plan now to join the celebration of the Reformation's 500th anniversary.

Please visit the newly launched [LutheranReformation.org](http://LutheranReformation.org) website. There, you'll find free downloadable resources, a hymn competition and more. Additional resources are on the way.

In the name of Jesus,

**Rev. Randall L. Golter Special Assistant to the President**

## November Devotion: “In God We Trust”

*"Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal." Isaiah 26:4*

A young girl awoke from her fitful sleep and cried out in the darkness. Her nightmare had sent shivers down her small frame. She felt alone and helpless. But as she cried out, she heard the familiar sound of her father's footsteps. She saw her bedroom door swing open and saw the face of her concerned father. He stepped to her bedside and gently brushed the hair from the young girl's face. The little girl smiled contentedly. There was nothing to fear; her father would protect her from the dangers of the night.

Our trust in God is similar to the little girl's trust in her father. When the trials of life lead us into situations that are as fearful as the nightmare of a little child, God asks us to trust in His continual protection.

God has always kept His Word. He promised to send the Savior to die for our sins and to rise again, and that promise was fulfilled. Through and in His Word we can see His loving face before us and feel the gentle touch of His hand. We are assured that God will use our trials and tribulations to our advantage. This is the everlasting truth on which our trust can rest.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, we thank You for always being with us and for being our everlasting strength. Amen.