

St. Paul's Lutheran

From the desk of Pastor Rohde:

Address:

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Bremen, IN 46506

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Church:
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church@stpaulsbremen.org

Website:

stpaulsbremen.org
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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)

A few weeks ago in a sermon we spoke of the importance of declaring the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives. Many people speak of God or the Lord, but the person of whom they speak is not the Lord Jesus Christ. The significance in speaking of Jesus can be seen throughout the growth of the Christian church in the book of Acts. There it is clearly noted that “salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

I was reminded of the significance of this the other day when I read an article about a pro basketball player named Stephan Curry. He plays for the Golden State Warriors. They were world champions last year, and Stephan Curry was the most valuable player in the league. This is what he had to say about his career at this point in his life: “I know I have a place in heaven waiting for me because of Jesus, and that’s something no earthly prize or trophy could ever top. First and foremost, I have to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for blessing me with the talents to play this game. I’m His humble servant right now, and I can’t say enough how important my faith is to who I am and how I play the game.”

Stephan Curry is using his position or vocation in life to proclaim the name of Jesus and His salvation. How about you? What does your life and speech say about Jesus Christ? Are you through word and deed revealing the worth and eternal value of the crucified and risen Lord to your children, your neighbors, co-workers, and others?

We are about to enter the season of Lent when we recall Jesus’ journey to the cross, and His death and resurrection. What are we saying to the world about these life-changing events? This is what the Lord says these events are to mean to us. “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14).

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen” (Galatians 6:18).

Lesson in Stewardship: What's Truly Significant in Life

How many of you can list the five wealthiest people in the world? How many of you can list the last five Heisman trophy winners? Who were the last five winners of the Miss American pageant? Can you list the last ten people who won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize? Who were the last five winners of the Academy Award for best actor and actress? Which major league baseball teams won the last ten World Series? Well, how well did you do at answering these questions?

Now consider these questions. Which two or three teachers had a significant impact upon you in school? What two or three people have helped you through difficult times?

What we see through this little exercise is that what is significant in life is not money, success, or beauty, but the relationships we develop with people and the blessings such relationship can have. God has given us all types of relationships in our homes, neighborhoods, places of work, and within the church. Do not forget to care for, love, and encourage the people God places in your life each day. These people are a blessing from God to minister to you and you to them that "we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).



THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH EPISTLE IS FEBRUARY 21ST!!! 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!

Special thanks from Lewis Leeper: Special thanks for all the cards and prayers for me during surgery and illness. It was greatly felt and appreciate!

A NEW BIBLE STUDY will begin on February 7th during the Bible/Sunday School hour. This class will deal with the basic teachings of the Bible. Through this class people can learn what the Bible teaches in preparation for confirmation. If you know of anyone who has no church home and would be interested in this class, invite them or better yet, bring them. This class is also beneficial for those who want to renew their understanding of basic Bible truths. This class will initially be taught by Pastor Rohde and meet in the church sanctuary.

LENT 2016: “PLACES OF THE PASSION”

The scenes of Lent are familiar. The Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the halls of Pontius Pilate, and the hill of Golgotha—these are the places we remember when we meditate on our Lord’s Passion. Yet when Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God’s grace when Jesus visits them.

For this reason, in our midweek Lenten series, we will read and contemplate Luke’s account of our Lord’s Passion. Each week, we will read a different section of the story; and each week, Luke will take us to a different place, the places of the Passion.

Our focus, however, will not be on these physical places. Instead, we will gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does there. Jesus will share His strength in our times of weakness. He will fill us with His praise in the midst of our sorrow. Week after week, we will enter the places of the Passion only to discover our Lord . . . waiting for us . . . willing to share with us a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

Plan to come to our midweek Lenten services this year at 7:00pm. Prepare to enter into these places of devotion, for there, your Lord will meet you, sharing with you His wondrous love that saves a fallen world.

Sermon Titles and Texts

2/ 10/16 Ash Wednesday: “A Place at the Table for You” (Luke 22:1–13)

2//17/16 Midweek of Lent 1: “The Upper Room: A Place of Service” (Luke 22:14–38)

2/24/16 Midweek of Lent 2: “Gethsemane: A Place of Strength” (Luke 22:39–46)

3/2/16 Midweek of Lent 3: “The Betrayal: A Place of Eternal Love” (Luke 22:47–53)

3/9/16 Midweek of Lent 4: “The Courtyard: A Place of Renewal” (Luke 22:54–62)

3/16/16 Midweek of Lent 5: “The Trial: A Place of God’s Will” (Luke 22:63–23:25)

Holy Thursday: “The Last Supper: A Place of Forgiveness” (Luke 22:7–23)

Good Friday: “Golgotha: A Place of Simple Love” (Luke 23:44–49)

Midweek Lenten Dinners – 6:00pm

Feb. 10 th	P.R. and Evangelism Boards
Feb. 17 th	Parish Fellowship
Feb. 24 th	Youth Board
Mar. 2 nd	Stewardship Board & Altar Guild
Mar. 9 th	LEGs
Mar. 16 th	School Board

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!!

The LEG ladies invite you to join them for their study entitled *A New Song: Planted by Streams of Water*. This study will encourage and uplift you as you reflect on the life-giving stream that never floods, never dries up, a stream that always sings songs of God's wisdom, songs of our Savior's love.

This Bible study is a fresh approach to individual and group study. It provides six weeks of stories—faith narratives—based on biblical psalms. Following each day's reading are questions that will facilitate your own reflection on the Bible. And at the end of each week is a short 5-10 minute video presentation

Each faith narrative was written by a real woman facing real-life issues. Just like you. Each author found help, encouragement, and direction for her life from God's Word and shares her stories in her words. These stories, new songs if you will, will help you weave His Word into the unique melody of your life

LEG meets on the odd-numbered Sunday evenings (1st, 3rd, and 5th) in the Jerusalem Room at 7pm. Contact the church office (546-2332) 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:

February 10, 24	July 13, 27
March 9, 23	August 10, 24
April 6, 20	September 7, 21
May 4, 18	October 5, 19
June 1, 15, 29	November 2, 16, 30
	December 14, 28

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.



SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

School Office phone: 546-2790

Fax: 546-3242

e-mail: schools@stpaulsbremen.org

February 2016

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!

OUR SPECIAL CHAPEL emphasis for February is Seminarian Support. Our offerings will go to support our congregation's adopted seminarians; plus we donate \$20 per month to our Tuition Aid Fund.

If you would like to donate to this project please contact St. Paul's School office.

NO SCHOOL on Feb. 15 unless it is used to make up for a "snow day".

Join us in encouraging our school **BASKETBALL** team. This month we presently have only one game, possibly our final one of the school year. We play Feb. 2 here vs Resurrection Academy in South Bend (4:30 P.M.).

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK. We are celebrating March 28 through April 1 this year.

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.

February Devotion: "Love, the Greatest Gift"

These three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1Corinthians 13:13

God is love. The supreme self-revelation of God is to be seen in the love of Christ. So it is not surprising that Saint Paul declares love to be the greatest of all things. It is the one thing that abides forever. Necessary as faith is in this life, love is greater because faith will end in seeing. Precious as hope is, love is greater because hope will end in fulfillment. Love is greater than all other gifts and blessings. It is greater than eloquence, than prophecy, than all learning.

See how powerful love is and how wonderful are its effects! Love teaches us to be patient and kind and generous. It keeps us from being envious and arrogant and proud. It makes for courtesy and unselfishness. It puts the best construction on everything. It dwells on the good rather than on the evil.

Christian love is the greatest civilizing and refining agency. No matter how great one's knowledge or power or fame, unless love is the moving force, no life is really good or great. The abundant life of which Jesus speaks is a life that is "rooted and established in love" and that knows "the love of Christ ... that surpasses knowledge" (Ephesians 3:17). Whoever lives in this love is a truly spiritual person.

PRAYER: Dear Father, grant us an ever larger appreciation of the wonders of Your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.