

**St. Paul's Lutheran**

**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)

From the desk of Pastor Rohde:

When a blaze breaks out we quickly seek to extinguish a fire with water or a fire extinguisher. We extinguish the fire with these things everywhere but in our relationships with other people. There we have a tendency to fight fire with fire. We wonder why human relationships are strained, and yet we do not fight them according to God's instruction.

Jesus says in Matthew 5:43-45: "You have heard it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemies.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." The God-inspired writer Paul gives similar instruction to God's people as he writes: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:2).

God's prescription as His people deal with strained relationships is not to fight fire with fire, but to fight fire with love. We are to mimic our heavenly Father Who dealt with us in like fashion. We were sinners and enemies of God. We were hostile to God and did not submit to God's laws (Romans 8:7). Yet, Paul tells us: "God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God the Father fought fire with the water of love as He poured out His lifeblood upon Calvary's cross. Now as we are clothed with Christ through the waters of Holy Baptism (Galatians 3:26-27), we are to share that same love, mercy and compassion of our heavenly Father with others.

There are risks and dangers involved in doing this. People can abuse or misuse our acts of love as they have done with God. Yet, there is no other way to extinguish the fire of hatred and ill feelings than with the spirit of love. Fighting fire with love is a mark of a follower of Christ. If we can only learn to fight fire with the water of Christ's love, blessings will fall upon marriages, families, churches, and the world around us. Let us make the world a better place by loving one another in Christ.

Lord, help me to overcome darkness with light, evil with good, and hatred with love. Amen.

## Lesson in Stewardship: A Daily Walk

Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount told us: “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:24). Jesus taught us to pray: “Give us **this day** our **daily bread**” (Matthew 6:11). Jesus is true to His promises about caring for our needs on a daily basis as observed in the account of the widow of Zarephath (I Kings 17:7-24).

These truths are meant to have us live out our lives on a daily basis. If God only gives us enough for today and our cupboards are bare, we are not to be worried about tomorrow, but confidently believe in God’s providential care. If God gives us more than we need for today, we may store it up, but our faith is to continue to trust in God’s providential care and not in our stored up resources.

The lyrics of a familiar Christian song are to be the theme by which we live our lives: “One day at a time sweet Jesus That’s all I’m askin’ of You Just give me the strength To do every day what I have to do. Yesterday’s gone sweet Jesus And tomorrow may never be mine Lord, help me today, show me the way One day at a time.”

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**THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EPISTLE IS MAY 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 calendar and join us!

Ascension Eve Service is on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Our theme is: “Sustained by the Ascended Lord” based on Ephesians 1:15–23. Let come together to worship the ascended Lord!

National Day of Prayer is May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Let us come together in prayer for our nation.

School Musical is May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the gym. This years musical is “GPS – God’s Plan of Salvation”.

Unity Sunday is May 29<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 worship, K & 8 graduation, Veterans recognition.

## **Board Briefs:**

### **Christian Education:**

Sunday School Mission of the Month – Camp Lutherhaven - \$75

### **BARNYARD ROUNDUP IS COMING!**

Barnyard Roundup- Jesus Gathers Us Together is the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School which will be held on June 13- 17, 2016 from 9:00- 11:30 am. Children ages 3 to Grade 5 are invited to attend this "utterly amazing adventure" down on the farm. (More information will follow.)

### **Church Office: Membership Changes**

Baptism: Caleb Davis

### **Parish Fellowship:**

Men's Group takes place on Sundays, May 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 4 to 6pm for all men ages 15 and above. We will meet in the gym for basketball and fellowship and will close with a prayer.

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

Euchre Party is Friday, May 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. This evening is sponsored by Parish Fellowship. Come and bring a friend!

### **Stewardship:**

## **E-TITHING**

Lori Haug has painstakingly sifted through the many options and intricacies regarding the process of e-tithing. The Board of Stewardship and Mark Matejka will need to work further on the details.

At this point however, the board would like to know how many individuals will likely participate in e-tithing.

***Please e-mail Bill Garl if you would likely participate in e-tithing at [W.garl@mchsi.com](mailto:W.garl@mchsi.com).***

Hannah Kiefer is now working at Lutheran World Relief in the greater Chicago area as the office volunteer coordinator. She is so full of joy to announce that she will, prayerfully, be going on another short-term trip to Hong Kong, June 18th to July 4th, 2016.

"Three years ago, Hannah Kiefer and Kelly Koon met while serving in Hong Kong. They were teaching English at two local primary schools, specifically in the Tuen Mun area in the New Territories. Teaching English to hundreds of primary school children, as well as being able to work with the local teachers and serve the local Lutheran churches

## Board Briefs cont.

attached to the schools, they fell in love with the culture and the people. These relationships stuck with them even after returning to the States. They have often longed to return together with a small team, strengthening and rekindling these relationships, and starting others by inviting new American friends into the beauty of the people and the place in which they lived. Hannah and Kelly have been fortunate enough to work with MCN to lead a short-term team back to Hong Kong this summer, and both are excited for the privilege and opportunity to continue the service of sharing the Gospel with people who they love dearly, encouraging them in Christ and His bountiful grace, and loving them the way they have and continue to love us."

This is a brand new mission agency run the by LCMS which is called "Mission of Christ Network."

Prayer requests: (1) For missionaries in Hong Kong, (2) For funds to come through for our mission. The funds needed per person are \$2000 to \$2400.

How to give: (1) Make checks payable to "Mission of Christ Network" and mark them "Hong Kong Kiefer.Koon June 2016," (2) Send to Mission of Christ Network, 22601 Lutheran Church Road, Tomball, TX 77377.

For more information, see <https://missionofchrist.org>.

## Youth:

### JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH NIGHTS -

May 13, 2016, 6 – 8 PM (TIME CHANGE)

This youth night will be outside on the soccer field (weather permitting) due to the stage being set-up for the school play. Please dress appropriately. If there is rain, we will be having a board game night in the upstairs balcony of the gym. Youth are encouraged to bring a board game of their choosing, if there is rain.

May 27, 2016, 7-9 PM in the gym (Regular time, regular place)

2016 PPC meetins: May 23, July 25, October 24, December 19

2016 Voters' Assembly meetings: June 6, August 22, November 21

## Altar Guild: May attendant is Mel.

Altar Flowers in April:

1 Wayne & Robin, Wayne & Tara

8 Carol

15

22

29

The Altar Flower Chart for the 2016 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.



## Mission News

We have a team returning to Peru again this July. It is hard to believe that 5 years have passed since our last mission team traveled to Peru. Near the end of July, Chris Leeper will be leading the team from St. Paul's and joining up with the Tennessee team in Knoxville, to travel to Manchay, Peru. A bus in Manchay will then take the team to Chanchamayo 10 hours away. They will be ministering in the village with devotions, teaching each other Spanish and English, sharing the gospel of Christ and enjoying the love of Jesus with the townspeople through fellowship and song. This year they also hope to go to the orphanage to minister to the children there. More information about team members, exact dates and how we can help will be coming as things are finalized.

St. Paul's continues to be dedicated to helping Haiti. Through donations from many congregations, the roof is now complete on the church in Fond Rouge and the wall protecting the orphanage has been rebuilt. Haitian Lutheran Mission Project has also been able to give ten teachers microloans, eight pastors motorcycles and built an irrigation system in the village of Colminy; which is providing much needed water to produce enough food for the village as well as surplus to sell at market.



Unfortunately, due to the loss of the plane from Port-Au-Prince to Jeremie, we will not be able to send an actual team to Haiti for the foreseeable future. However, the Mission Board urges the congregation to continue to have a heart for Haiti by supporting the microloans for teachers, motorcycles for the remote village pastors, or the school lunch ministry programs. We will be sending \$600 that has been collected here to the Haitian Lutheran Mission Project this month. It is still possible to glorify the Lord and do great things in Haiti. Thank you for your continued support. God is so very good!

Yarn that was collected for Lutheran Child and Family Services will be delivered to the Impact Program the end of this month. Thank you all for your generosity. We will be sending 2 very large boxes of yarn for the girls to knit and crochet with.



Please prayerfully consider your role in God's mission family. Whether you join a team to serve physically or donate so that others might serve, or both, know that Jesus is glorified in all things. If you want to give to a specific need or program, please note that on your envelope. God's blessings to each of you.

Forever In His Service,  
St. Paul's Mission Board

"Prayer pushes us through life's slumps, propels us over the humps and pulls us out of the dumps. Prayer is the oomph we need to get the answers we seek."

Max Lucado

# SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

School Office phone: 546-2790

Fax: 546-3242

e-mail: [schools@stpaulsbremen.org](mailto:schools@stpaulsbremen.org)

May 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 May is Worship for Shut-Ins. Our offerings go to support this television outreach from Ft. Wayne. We also donate monthly to our Tuition Aid Fund. If you would like to donate directly to these projects please contact St. Paul's School office.

We are currently ENROLLING STUDENTS for the 2016-17 school year. School will begin on Aug. 10, 2016.

## FUTURE EVENTS TO NOTE:

May 11	St. Paul's Track and Field Day(NEW DATE)
May 20	St. Paul's School Musical (NEW DATE)
May 29	Graduation at the 9:30 Worship Service

We are seeking volunteers to help with the Track and Field Day on May 11. Contact the school office. Thanks!

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. 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.

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

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School:

Thank you for the special retirement celebration on April 17, 2016. It was incredibly overwhelming to see all of the love and support from everyone on such a memorable day! I appreciated the beautiful songs that were performed by the Day School Children's Choir, The New Beginning, and "The Benediction" from The Adult Choir. Thank you for the message that was preached, telling us to "dance together" for the Lord. Also, thank you for the delicious meal that we had at the reception.

To God: Thank you for giving me the privilege to share Jesus Christ with parents and students these past 42 years. By Your Grace, I have been able to serve here at St. Paul's for my entire teaching career.

To the School Board and the Congregation: Thank you for the gifts, money and cards that you gave me. I am truly grateful for the generosity and outpouring of support I received.

To the PTL Board: Thank you for the memory book and scrapbooks containing the pictures of students and the activities that we had throughout the years. The comments from the children and adults are very precious, and I will treasure them always!

To the Staff: Thank you for your kind words. It has been a blessing to work with all of you, and I will miss seeing your smiling faces on a daily basis.

To Pastor Rohde: Thank you for your words of guidance throughout these 35 year together. Also, thank you for your special performance of "Barbara Ann" during the reception.

The celebration was a very special and momentous occasion. May God continue to shower His Blessings upon St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School. To God be the glory!

In Christ,

Barbara Middaugh

The following students at St. Paul's Lutheran School have earned **Honor Roll** status for the Third Quarter of the 2015-2016 school year:

Eighth Grade: Beck, Ellie

Seventh Grade: Jacob

Sixth Grade: Ty, Ellia, Aidan

Fifth Grade: Ian

Fourth Grade: Lexi, Avery

The following students have had **perfect attendance** for the Third Quarter of the 2015-2016 school year:

Kindergarten: (none)

First Grade: (none)

Second Grade: Hunter, Tommy, Zeke, Jack

Third Grade: Lindie, Tyler, Madison, Noah

Fourth Grade: Kia, Avery

Fifth Grade: (none)

Sixth Grade: Ty, Ellia, Aidan, Tyler

Seventh Grade: Jacob, Jonah

Eighth Grade: (none)

## ***BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!!***

The Ladies Encouragement Group (LEG) has begun “Prophets and Kings – Being in the Culture and Not of It”. It is from the Focus on the Family series, “That the World May Know” with teacher and historian, Ray Vander Laan. In ancient times, the Hebrews were confronted daily with decision of :”Whom shall I serve?” The consequences of their choice are the stories that make up; the Old Testament. This study explores the turbulent history of Israel’s prophets and kings and we will learn from their story how to build our own devotion to and trust in God. In addition to watching the DVD, there will be time for Bible Discovery and Discussion. The group meets at 7 pm in the Jerusalem room. All ladies are encouraged to attend! Summer LEG meetings are;

May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Innocent Blood-Part Two (includes some review if you missed the first session)
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Who is God?
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Wages of Sin
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	The Lord is My Shepherd
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	God with Us



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:

May 4, 18      June 1, 15, 29      July 13, 27      August 10, 24

September 7, 21      October 5, 19      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.



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## May Devotion: "Learning from God's Lesser Creatures"

*"See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."*

*Matthew 6:28-29*

Referring to a pair of Canada geese building their nests in metropolitan St. Louis, a newspaper article said: "Unlike many West County residents, Canada geese keep the same mate for life, forming new relationships only when widowed."

The Bible urges us to learn from lesser creatures -- diligence, for instance: "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!" (Proverbs 6:6). Gratitude can be learned, as Isaiah writes: "The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner's manger, but ... My people do not understand" (Isaiah 1:3) – do not understand that God is the giver.

As for caring about the young, is there a better example than a mother bear attending to her cubs? Animals are known to be faithful, like the Skye terrier of Edinburgh, Scotland, named Greyfriars Bobby, who for 14 years stayed at his master's grave. The city built him a statue.

Faithfulness, diligence, gratitude are qualities we can learn from God's lesser creatures. Jesus bids us consider the lilies of the field, the birds of the air, even the lowly sparrows, learning from them to trust in God's providence. Some truths, however, God's lesser beings cannot teach us – truths about our spiritual well-being. For this we have to turn to the Word of God, to people who can teach us the Word. Saint Paul tells Timothy that his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, had taught him the faith (2 Timothy 1:5). And where did they find this faith? In "the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). Not only from adults but also from little children we can learn this truth: "Jesus loves me, this I know; for the Bible tells me so." It takes Christian humility to learn from God's lesser beings.

**PRAYER:** Lord God, help me learn the truths to believe and to live by, through all You have said and done. Amen.