

What to Do? What to Remember?

Address:

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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)

I imagine we are all ready for this presidential election to be over. For most of us we may look at both candidates and question the choice we have. Do we throw up our arms in disgust and feel a sense of hopelessness and despair?

From a biblical perspective our arms are not to be lifted up in despair, but as the Psalmist put it: “Hear my cry for mercy as I call to You for help, as I **lift up my hands toward Your Most Holy Place**” (Psalm 28:2). Our posture as Christians in the midst of what is before us on November 8th is not to live in hopelessness and despair, but pray, pray for our nation and the election process that will take place.

The reality before us in the Bible is that the **Lord is sovereign**. That means that **Jesus is the supreme ruler over everything**. The Lord has always accomplished His purposes no matter who is in control. Proverbs 21:1 tells us: “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a river whenever He pleases.” On one occasion the Lord turned the heart of the heathen King of Assyria to aid the people of God in the construction of the temple. On another occasion, the Lord stirred the heart of the heathen king, Cyrus, to release the Jews so they could return to Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar was considered to be the mightiest king of his generation. Yet, God handled him and put him in “detention” for seven years. King David wrote: “**For dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules the nations**” (Psalm 22:28).

When we view all that goes on in this world through the eyes of faith in Christ our Savior, we are led to know the **He** Who died and rose to give us eternal salvation **governs all things for the sake of His people** (Romans 8:28). The Lord is the One Who establishes all authority and no authority governs without the Lord (Romans 13:1).

Let us then in this election cycle not throw up our hands in disgust, but let us pray with believing hearts for the Lord to guide the election and the future of our nation. Let each one of us also vote. It is a right and responsibility that God in His grace has granted us in the United States of America. Let us use His grace wisely to pray and vote, and in the end lift up our hands to praise the Lord as long as we live” (Psalm 63:4).

Lessons in Stewardship: How a Christian is like a Pumpkin

A lady was asked by a friend what it was like to be a Christian. She replied, “It’s like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt from you. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves a smiling face on you and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.”

Having just gone through the season of jack-o-lanterns, this is a pretty good description of God’s work in our lives and what He wants to accomplish through us. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are **God’s workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:8-10). “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:10).



THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER EPISTLE IS NOVEMBER 20TH!!! THIS IS A WEEK BEFORE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETINGS. 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!

Congregational Christmas Caroling December 4th at 4 pm

You are invited to come and make a joyful noise unto the Lord and to the shut-ins of our church and community!

We will meet in the Bethany room at 4 pm to break up into groups and then go out and sing. Also, at 6:30 pm we will return to the church for dinner and fellowship. Please bring a dessert to share at the meal.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Board Briefs:

Christian Education:

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

Church Office:

Membership Changes

Deaths: Allan Tjernagel

Parish Fellowship:

Co-Ed Volleyball will be on Thursday, November 3rd, from 7 to 9pm for all men and women ages 14 and up. Bring a friend.

Ping-Pong will be on Thursday, November 10th, from 7 to 9pm for all men and women for adults ages 14 and up. Bring a friend.

Euchre Party is Friday, November 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!

Men's Group takes place on Sundays, November 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.

PR & Evangelism:

Public Relations and Evangelism Boards are in need of your help for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 24th.

We need:

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

Stewardship:

The registration process for e-tithing (electronic tithing) is complete. The implementation of this program is expected to begin in November. Look for information in upcoming Church Bulletins and the Epistle.

Boards cont.

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.

Youth:

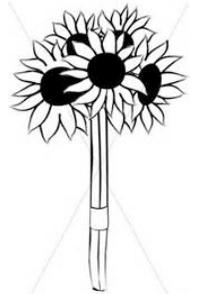
2016 PPC meetings: December 19

2016 Voters’ Assembly meetings: November 21

Altar Guild: November attendants are Theresa & Andy.

Altar Flowers in November:

6 Bob & Joan
13
20
27



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.

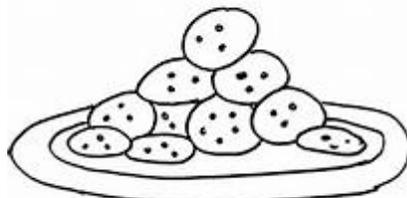
MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND CHECK OUT THE 'CHECK IT OUT BOARD'!!!!

Thanksgiving Eve Service is November 23rd at 7pm. As we remember that all good things come from God, may we pause in our busy schedules to come to God’s House and thank Him.



Midweek Advent Meals and Services begin November 30th. This meal is sponsored by the Public Relations and Evangelism boards. On the menu are two kinds of Italian casseroles served with salad, garlic bread and cookies. This is a Thrivent sponsored meal, so no free will offering will be gathered. Parish fellowship will be supplying the drinks and dinnerware. Let us come to together and feast on good food and the Word of God.

Advent Cookie Sign-up list is on the “Check It Out” Board by the school secretary’s office.



SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

School Office phone: 546-2790

Fax: 546-3242

e-mail: schools@stpaulsbremen.org

November 2016

Our theme for the 2016-2017 school year is Upon this Rock. This is based on Is. 26:4 (ESV): “Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock” We give thanks to God for His gracious care for us all!

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. Thanks for your help!

The School Chapel offerings for November and December to go help support Rev. Micah Wildauer in his ministry in Togo.

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.

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.

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.

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

*****Please check the Church Calendar for other school events.**

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!!

The Ladies Encouragement Group (LEG) have begun an new Bible study entitled 'The 7 Experiment – staging your own mutiny against excess' by Jen Hatmaker. The LEG Bible study group meets the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 7 p.m. in the Jerusalem Room at church. All ladies are encouraged to attend! Pick up your study guide from the church office and join us!

Ladies Encouragement Group
Moving our feet, shining our light!



Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Class has begun.

We meet from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

in the Jerusalem Room.

All ladies are welcome!

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 2016 is as follows:

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.



CoolCups.com



November Devotion: "Law and Gospel"

For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

The Bible contains two distinctively different messages.

For instance:

Have you ever felt depressed, desolate, on the verge of despair because of some wrong you had done -- a deliberate lie? A dishonest business deal? A deliberate sin of sex? Did you feel miserable, worthless, guilty before God?

That was the condemning message of God's Law. His Law demands perfection; it passes judgment; it pronounces the inexorable verdict of guilt and the punishment of death.

On the other hand, did you ever feel free as a bird, completely at peace with God, fully forgiven through faith in Christ, consciously living in His grace? That was because you had heard and believed the message of His Gospel.

The Law, after all, can only demand, condemn, and ultimately kill. But the Gospel, the good news of God's love in Christ, assures us of forgiveness, peace, and joy. It is important that in our Christian faith and life we distinguish clearly between these two. When God's Law threatens to destroy us, we must always flee to Jesus' open arms and hear His Gospel: "Your sins are forgiven ... Go in peace" (Luke 7:48-50).

PRAYER: Lord, forgive me for Jesus' sake. Amen.