

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 the last weeks I have prayerfully contemplated the congregational meeting held on January 23rd and where we go from there. I could not help but recall an inaugural address given by President John F. Kennedy on January 20, 1961. This address came to my mind because this was one of the speeches we had to analyze in my high school speech class. It is considered to be one of the great and unforgettable messages ever given. The key statement in that speech was: “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.” Perhaps those of you who originally heard those words can still hear them in your mind today.

Without getting into any thoughts along party lines or the evaluation of President Kennedy's term of office, I would like to look at the words of that speech from a Scriptural perspective as it speaks to our relationship to Christ and His Church. In preparation for this article I read President Kennedy's whole inaugural address once again. A few things struck me with application to our congregation here at St. Paul's.

President Kennedy opened his speech with these words: “We observe today not a victory of party, but a **celebration of freedom.**” Is this not true for us as Christians? Our celebration of life is founded upon the person and work of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote in II Corinthians 5:15, “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.” As we gather around God's Word and receive His Supper on Sundays, we celebrate the truth that Jesus paid the debt of our sins and rose again from the grave. We are no longer bound by sin or Satan, but we are freed to live our lives to the glory and honor of Jesus Christ.

In the middle of his speech, President Kennedy said: “In your hands, my fellow citizens more than mine will rest the final success or failure of our course. Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty.” Is not what President Kennedy said about our citizenship in the United States also true with regard to our Christianity? Each generation in the church has been called by God to testify about the Savior. If we don't share Christ, Christ cannot be known by man. The Apostle Paul wrote: “How can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of Whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them”

(Romans 10:14)? If you and I are not actively involved in proclaiming the Gospel, the world will become spiritually illiterate concerning the things of God. This is why God calls every Christian to “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (I Peter 3:15).

President Kennedy ends his speech with the words: “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country. Ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.” The Lord speaks to us in a similar way about our freedom in Christ and what we are to do with it. In Deuteronomy 10:12, the Lord says: “And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” The Apostle Paul writes in Galatians 6:10, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

As I close out this article, may each of us consider the words of the hymn, I Gave My Life for Thee (The Lutheran Hymnal, 405). The first five verses speak of what Jesus did for us that we might be His forgiven and redeemed children. In verse 6 the hymnwriter has Jesus speaking to us with these words: “Oh, let thy life be given, Thy years for Me be spent, World’s fetters all be riven, And joy with suffering blent! I gave Myself for thee: Give thou thyself to Me.”



THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL EPISTLE IS MARCH 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!

**Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide. Solus Christus.
(500 Year Reformation Anniversary– 1517-2017)**

Sola Scriptura. Sola Gratia. Sola Fide. Solus Christus. Latin. Ironic, isn't it? A movement that resulted in the liturgy and the Bible in our language (not Latin) is remembered by Latin phrases. By Scripture alone, by grace alone, by faith alone. Through Christ alone. Alone. Without your help. Without human tradition. Without anyone's assistance. God acts alone through Jesus.

Scripture. Given by God. Through which we receive Christ. Grace. Given by God. Through which we receive Christ. Faith. Given by God. Through which we receive Christ. Through Christ alone. God gives us all these gifts because of Jesus' death and resurrection. All good gifts come from God and benefit all those who believe. Through Christ alone.

A Lenten Midweek Series for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Sermon Series: The Ten Commandments

March 1st:	Ash Wednesday:	Commandments Nine and Ten, 1 Kings 21:1–16
March 8th:	Lenten Midweek 2:	Commandment Eight, Matthew 26:59–61
March 15th:	Lenten Midweek 3:	Commandment Seven, John 12:1–8
March 22nd:	Lenten Midweek 4:	Commandment Six, 2 Samuel 11:1–5
March 29th:	Lenten Midweek 5:	Commandment Five, 2 Samuel 11:1–27
April 5th:	Lenten Midweek 6:	Commandment Four, Luke 2:41–52
April 13th:	Maundy Thursday:	Commandment Three, Mark 14:12–26; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17
April 14th:	Good Friday:	Commandment Two, Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9
April 16th:	Sonrise:	Commandment One, Mark 16:1–8

Let us come together to grow in God's Word and our Lutheran heritage; Worship begins at 7pm!

Midweek Lenten Dinners

March 1: LEGs- Chicken Legs, Salad and Green Beans

March 8: PR & Evangelism- Sloppy Joes and Sides

March 15: School Board- Taco Bar

March 22: PTL- Lasagna and Garlic Bread

March 29: Stewardship & Altar Guild- Salads & Horsd'oeuvres

April 5: Parish Fellowship- Surprise

All dinners start at 6pm



Haitian Lutheran Mission

Christ Lutheran Church
14700 South 94th Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60462

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your gift of \$1,177.00 to be used toward Food Storage Buildings. As we begin the New Year, we thank God for his many Blessings shown to us, and our brothers and sisters in Haiti. We are most thankful that God has protected Pastor Isaac, his family and many others so they can continue to do his work.

Six of the 14 food structures are completed, and the others should be completed by the end of the month. School has resumed in tent like structures till we can get the schools re-built. The children are receiving food and learning about their Lord and Savior.

Thank you again for your support of our mission, and please keep our brothers and sisters in Haiti in your prayers.

In His Service,
Janice Johnson
Haitian Lutheran Mission Project Coordinator



Preschool Open House

Tuesday, March 7th, 5 to 7 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

605 S. Center St., Bremen

*Color Me Kindergarten is the theme
for Kindergarten Round-Up!*

Who: Prospective Kindergarten Students and their parents

What: Pick up info., meet staff, tour the facility, ask questions

When: Tuesday, March 21st, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Where: St. Paul's Lutheran, 605 S. Center St., Bremen

Use the Dear Parents letter included in this Epistle to invite anyone you know with a prospective preschooler or Kindergarten student for the fall of 2017 to our open house or Kindergarten Round-Up!

Board Briefs:

Christian Education:

Sunday School Mission of the Month – Lutheran Child & Family Services - \$75

Parish Fellowship:

ATTENTION ALL MEN---mark your calendars on April 25th at 6:00 for a Father & Son Banquet. Don't have a son or father, adopt one. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



Euchre Party is Friday, March 24th, 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, March 12th & 26th, 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.

Lent Cookie Sign-up list is on the "Check It Out" Board by the school secretary's office.

Pastor Wonnacott and Family will be on vacation March 11th & 12th.

Stewardship:

This month's topic regarding the **blue offering envelopes** pertains to the **School SPECIAL NEEDS** fund. This savings reserve fund was established to cover the cost of future projects announced by Church Properties and/or special opportunities for continued Church growth as suggested by the Parish Planning Council.

Stewardship Reminder; spring break vacation.

The Lord's blessings and the workings of our church never cease. While we enjoy our much needed vacations, remember those blessings and workings in our tithes.

E-TITHING

The Board of Stewardship is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at www.stpaulsbremen.org.
2. Click on the "e-tithing" button located at the top of the home page.
3. Click on the "Create Profile" button, then...
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Youth:

Junior High Youth Night Dates for March

- March 3, 7-9PM, in the Gym
- March 31, 7-9PM, in the Gym

Easter Sunrise Service (Jr. High Youth)

- Practices begin on March 5th after 2nd Service (practices will last 45 minutes)
- Practice Dates (all practices after 2nd Service)
 - March 5th
 - March 12th
 - March 19th
 - March 26th
 - April 15th at 11 AM (Dress Rehearsal)
- Easter Sunrise Service is Sunday, April 16th at 7:00AM

Junior High Lock-in – March 10th

- Time: 7:00PM-7:00AM
- Starts Where? In the Gym
- What is it? Think 12 hours of Fun and Games! Plenty of Food!
- Invite Your Friends! Kids in 6th-8th Grade from the school are invited too!

Bowling Outing for Senior High Youth at Quick Lanes (Plymouth)

- Date: Sunday, March 19th
- Meet at Church Parking Lot at: 12:45PM
- Leave at: 1:00PM
- Return to Church at: 3:30PM
- SIGN-UP on the Youth Board!

2017 Voters' Assembly meetings: April 24, June 5, August 28, November 27

2017 Parish Planning Council: March 27, May 22, July 24, October 23

Altar Guild: March attendants are Andy & Theresa.

Altar Flowers in March:

5
12
19 Michelle & Steve
26

The Altar Flower Chart for the 2017 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.

University Lutheran Church (ULu - Purdue University Campus) is on the move, a change that will position the ministry for expanded outreach and increased visibility among Purdue University students. The church has entered into an agreement to purchase the former Exponent building located at 460 Northwestern Avenue, directly across from the Purdue Engineering Mall, and #ULuOnTheMove is moving forward at a well-planned pace. For more information go to <https://in.lcms.org/2-96-million-dollar-endowment-to-ulu/>.

Scholarships from LWML

The Indiana District LWML will be awarding a limited number of \$500 scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year. I am asking for your help in making your students aware of this opportunity for financial assistance. These scholarships are available to students preparing to be servants of the church on a full-time basis (ministry, teaching, DCE, parish work, etc.) and are enrolled in an LCMS synodical university or seminary for next year.

Forms are available online at our district website: www.lwmlindiana.org for students who qualify and are interested in receiving financial help. The completed application must be returned with a postmark no later than March 15, 2017. It is important to emphasize that applicants must be a communicant member of an Indiana District LCMS congregation for at least 18 months.

The Scholarship Committee will be meeting in April to select this year's recipients. Students will be notified shortly after as to whether or not they have been selected.

Thank you for your assistance. If I may be of further help, you may contact me by email: lcspremier@att.net or by phone: 317-861-6389.

Serving the Lord with gladness, Linda Schulenburg
IN District LWML Scholarship Chairman

Congratulations to
St. Paul's Lutheran School Eagles
7th & 8th grade Basketball Team
who participated in the ILSAA
(Indiana Lutheran School Athletic Association)
2017 State Basketball Tournament
February 24 thru 26th!



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!!

The Ladies Encouragement Group (LEG) Bible Study meet 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! We are in a bible study entitled Fearless Conversation – How Can We Be Fully Faithful When We’re Fully Flawed. Please join us!



Ladies Encouragement Group
Moving our feet, shining our light!

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Class meets from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. in the Jerusalem Room. All ladies are welcome!



Come Join the “Feast” !!!



Then Jesus declared, *“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”* John 6:35

Every two weeks, a group of men from St. Paul’s meet for breakfast and Bible study at Bremen Community Hospital in the cafeteria conference room. The conversation and fellowship make this a great way to start a day by feeding our physical and spiritual needs.....it’s been rumored that laughter and friendship have been carried from the breakfasts !

Come, join us and bring a friend along. We start at 6:30 AM and finish at 7:30 AM. The schedule for 2017 is as follows.

March 8, 22 -	April 5, 19 –
May 3, 17, 31 -	June 14, 28 –
July 12, 26 -	August 9,23 -
September 6, 20 -	October 4, 18 –
November 1, 15, 29 -	December 13, 27

If you have questions, feel free to contact Dave Burcham (574-546-4262). The breakfast will take 0.3% of your time from a two week period...not a very big sacrifice when you think about it. What better way to start the day than fellowship in studying God’s word!

SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

School Office phone: 546-2790

Fax: 546-3242

e-mail: schools@stpaulsbremen.org

March 2017

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!

OUR SPECIAL CHAPEL emphasis for March is Camp Lutherhaven. Our offerings will go to support and its program of outdoor ministry. We also donate a portion of the offering to our Tuition Aid Fund. If you would like to donate to either project please contact St. Paul's School office.

PRESCHOOL will hold an OPEN HOUSE on March 7. Invite someone, or come yourself, and check out our program.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK is March 12 – 17. We are celebrating with special days and activities each school day. Camp Lutherhaven will be present for Chapel on March 15.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP will be held March 21 from 6:30-7:30 P.M. for the 2017 - 2018 school year. Please set aside that evening if you have a Kindergartner for next year. Or tell someone you know who would be interested. Thanks!

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.

“Upon this Rock” -Isaiah 26:4
“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock”.
National Lutheran Schools Week – March 12-17, 2017

Sunday, March 12- Sunday Services start our week

Monday, March 13 “Upon the Rock of Jesus”: A great way to start the school week!

- Eagles spirit wear/Jerseys
- “Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad”
7:30-8:15 (day school) and 8:30-9:00 (preschool)
- Prayer Rock Activity-9:00
- School Wide Photo-10:45
- Joint Chapel with preschool-11:00
- 4th-8th Grade trip to the Bremen Public Library-12:30-1:30

Tuesday, March 14 “Upon the Rock of Ages”

- National Pi Day (3.14) and Generations Dress up Day
- Kindergarten-3rd Grade trip to Bremen Library-8:30-9:30
- Read to a preschool buddy day- 9:15-9:30
- Joint Chapel with Preschool at 11:00
- Hacienda Restaurant Fundraiser for our school (All day at the Plymouth location.

Wednesday, March 15 “The House Upon the Rock”

- USA Dress Day
- Chapel at 8:05 with Camp Lutherhaven visiting
- Annual Bowl-a-thon supporting the orphanage in Haiti charity event chosen by our students from 9:00-11:30 (Bus will board teachers and staff at 8:45). Parents are welcome to meet us at the bowling alley of Quick’s Lanes in Plymouth, IN.

Thursday, March 16 “Upon the Rock of Refuge”:

- Pajama/Crazy Hair day
- Chapel at 8:05

Friday, March 17 “Building Upon the Rock”

- Indiana Dress Day- (come dressed in any Indiana spirit wear from schools, universities, sports teams, or state sights)
- Preschool rocket building and launch 9:15-9:45
- Joint closing Chapel with preschool at 11:00
- Staff Appreciation Lunch 11:30-1:30 (Parent volunteers will staff lunch and Open gym)
- Open gym and team building activities 12:30-1:30 (K-8th)
- Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Fair 7:00-9:00pm in the Bethany Room.

We hope the students and teachers have a great time celebrating NLSW together. Please use this week as a special time to hold our school staff and students up in prayer, giving thanks for each of them, and the many blessings we receive from God that support our students and school ministry here at St. Paul's! We are so grateful to our teaching staff for all the hard work they do every day in teaching and nurturing our children physically, academically and spiritually. Thank you!

PTL Board and Members

Showcase of Fine Arts and Crafts



St. Paul's PTL is sponsoring the 23rd Annual Showcase of Fine Arts and Crafts, Friday, March 17 at 7:00 P.M. in the Bethany Room. Everyone is invited to come and view the art and craft entries. There will also be a showcase of the music entries, with a program of the instrumental, piano, and vocal entries.

Please note: This year we will again have an area for "open entries." This will be for members of our congregation who wish to display an art or craft item but do not have a family member in our school. If you are interested in entering, please contact Anita Eichinger, 546-4607, or pick up an entry form packet outside the church office. The deadline to return entry forms is March 9.

Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

The Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for March 19 - 24, 2017 in the Bethany Room.

The times for the Book Fair is as follows:

Sunday, March 19 : After 1st & 2nd Services, and Sunday School

Monday, March 20 - 24 : 8:00- 9:30 am, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, March 22: 6:00 - 6:45 pm

Volunteers to work the Book Fair are also needed. Contact Barb Middaugh, 546-4869 if you would be able to work. We are planning to set up the Book Fair on March 18th at 9:00 am.

The profit from the Book Fair will go to the schools' libraries and individual classrooms.

March Devotion: "Almost Right"

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Some people I know do the right thing . . . almost.

That was brought home to me this past week when a friend in the insurance industry told me of a lady who received \$1,200 to compensate her for the loss of her diamond ring. Not unsurprisingly, four weeks later she found the missing ring stashed away in the back of a cupboard.

Glad for the ring, she wrote to the insurance company and

confessed, "I didn't think it would be right for me to keep the ring *and* the money, so I thought you would be pleased to know I have sent the \$1,200 to the Red Cross." The lady had done the right thing . . . *almost*.

She hadn't *kept* the money. That was right, and she did tell the insurance company about finding the ring. That was right, too. But sending the money to the Red Cross . . . even as fine an organization as it might be, well, that was not quite right.

A lot of people try to do the right thing . . . almost. Over Christmas I watched my twin grandchildren who were squabbling and arguing. Finally, their mother stopped things and told them to apologize. They did. They shook hands. They said they were sorry. They did the right thing almost. You see, in spite of the hand shaking and the words, they weren't sorry. They were still angry.

I suppose I shouldn't be surprised. Our selfishness and our natural propensity to sin guarantees we almost always miss the mark of doing the right thing.

This is why we need Jesus.

Why? Because He is the Son of God, Jesus did that which we could never do. He did the right thing always. If Jesus dealt with pompous Pharisees, He did the right thing. If He was speaking with a serious sinner, He did the right thing. If Satan placed before Him a tremendous set of temptations, Jesus still did the right thing.

Because Jesus did the right thing -- always -- at the end of His life, as He hung dying upon the cross, He could honestly say, "It is finished" (John 19:30b).

And it was. Jesus' perfect life, His total avoidance of sin had opened the door to heaven for all who believe on Him as their Father-sent Substitute and Savior.

Now you and I are still sinners, and our plans almost always fall short of the mark when we try to do the right thing. In spite of that failure, our lives should still be lived in thankfulness for what Jesus has given. It would be the right thing to do -- absolutely.

THE PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to do and be the perfect person we could never be. Now may we, redeemed by His complete fulfillment of the Law, thank and praise, serve and obey the risen Redeemer. In Jesus' Name. Amen.