

**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)

This month the Christian Church comes to remember, recall, and rejoice in the most significant elements of the Christian faith. After riding into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Jesus gathered His disciples in the Upper Room and instituted the Lord's Supper. He took bread and wine and told His disciples that this is His body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. Those for whom His body and blood are given are not only the disciples in the Upper Room, but all believers in Christ who partake of this Sacrament. Herein we are assured by Christ that all our sins are forgiven.

Next we remember the cross of Calvary upon which Jesus laid down His life in payment for our sins. From the cross Jesus cried out: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing" (Luke 23:34), and "Today you will be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Again, Jesus pronounced His forgiveness upon us for the foolish sins of which we are guilty, and He promised us that through Him we would have the gift of everlasting life in heaven.

The events of these few days culminated when the tomb in which the lifeless body of Jesus was laid to rest was found empty. The angel declared: "He is not here for He has risen" (Matthew 28:6). This means that in Christ we are given new life. We have been set free from our sinful past, given the ability to live for Christ now and eventually dwell with Him eternally in heaven.

These events in Jesus' life are our story. Let us in this month rededicate ourselves to the Lord by praying this prayer with a sincere heart: and pray the prayer found in the hymn, "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth": "O Spirit, Who didst once restore Thy Church that it might be again The bringer of good news to men, Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more, That in these gray and latter days There may be those who life is praise, Each life a high doxology To Father, Son, and unto Thee" (from Lutheran Service Book, hymn 834 - "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth" ).



## Lessons in Stewardship: Fill Me and Use Me

What happen if you stand at the edge of a large body of water with only a thimble in your hand? How much water can you take with you? The answer is obvious, only a thimble full. The bigger the object you bring to that body of water the more water you can take.

How much of Himself does God want to give to you? What God wants to give us and what we want to receive from Him are often times quite different. Oh, we want God in our lives, but at the same time we are reluctant to give Him our entire being. We are slow to truly live what we sing: “Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.” We want the Lord’s blessings, but by the same token we try and limit God in our lives. When we do that we actually hamper ourselves, limit God working through us, and diminish being the light for Christ He calls us to be.

It was the Apostle Paul who noted how he could “do all things through Christ Who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Paul also noted: “Now to Christ Who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or image, according to His power that is at work in us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

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**THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY EPISTLE IS APRIL 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!

### **You still aren't good enough for God's love. (500 Year Reformation Anniversary– 1517-2017)**

The love of God does not find, but creates, that which is pleasing to it” (Luther’s Works 31:57). God loves you for no good reason ... except His goodness. Though you may be tempted to work to improve and be more liked or loved, God doesn’t wait for your improvement. He doesn’t even require it. He loves you. His love is what changes you from sinner to saint. His love sent Jesus to die and rise for you. His love gives you salvation in Christ freely. His love caused Holy Scripture to be written so that you might hear and believe in His love. His love washed you in Baptism. His love feeds you in the Lord’s Supper. His love makes you lovable. He loves you freely and fully. No strings attached.

## Sermon Series: The Ten Commandments

- 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: Sunrise: 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

April 5: Parish Fellowship- Surprise

All dinners start at 6pm

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### **BUDGET CUTS AND APRIL 24 VOTERS MEETING**

The Parish Planning Council at the April 24 congregational voters meeting will present the following resolution for voter decision. The resolution will have two parts:

1. Reduce Day School staff by not filling the 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teaching position vacated by the retirement of Ken Eichinger. Teaching responsibilities will be spread out among the remaining teachers.
2. Reduce Pre School staff by the equivalent of one teaching position by reducing the number of combined hours served. This will not reduce the number of Pre School staff.

Budgeted giving will be reviewed on an annual basis with the intent to restore staff resources to current levels when the budget balance warrants.

All members of the congregation are invited to attend the April 24 voters meeting to voice your thoughts and/or questions. Input and questions may come from anyone present at the meeting.

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### **Board Briefs:**

#### **Christian Education:**

Sunday School Mission of the Month – LCMS World Relief - \$75

St. Paul's church will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15, 2017 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Children age 2 to Grade 3 are invited to attend this event. Children will be

hearing a devotion, hunting for eggs, making an Easter craft, and having refreshments. On Easter morning during the Easter Breakfast, children will also be able to make another Easter craft.

We are asking for help from the congregation in getting "mini size" candy pieces to fill the eggs. A box will be set up in the Narthex to accept the candy.

### **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, April 21<sup>st</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 takes place on Sundays, April 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</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.

### **Stewardship:**

#### Gym Loan Balance

The gym loan balance as of mid-March stands at \$49,057.

#### **Facilities Expansion Fund**

At the present time, this fund is being used to pay down the gymnasium loan. Many members are remembering this fund in their **wills and/or memorials.** Your blue offering envelopes also allow you to designate a gift to this fund.

#### **St. Paul Improvement Fund**

This designated fund was established to cover the cost of special projects planned by the Church Property Board and approved by the voters' assembly. These special projects are publicized in the Epistle and Sunday bulletin. The blue offering envelope in your church envelope box can be used at your convenience in contributing to this fund.

### **Youth:**

#### Easter Sunrise Service (Jr. High Youth)

- Practice Dates (all practices after 2<sup>nd</sup> Service)
  - April 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM (Dress Rehearsal)
- Easter Sunrise Service is Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00AM
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Jr. Youth night; Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 7 – 9 pm

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

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

## **Altar Guild: April attendants are Kay & Elaine.**

Altar Flowers in April:

2

9

16 Marian

23 Bruce & Ellen

30 Dave & Deb

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.



## **When Your Hut's On Fire**

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island.

He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

### **The Moral of This Story:**

It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

## ***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.

	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](mailto:schools@stpaulsbremen.org)

April 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 April is Jamielynn Tinkey's ministry in the Dominican Republic. Our offerings will go to support her work as a Health Education Nurse. 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.

We are currently ENROLLING STUDENTS for the 2017-18 school year. School will begin on August 9, 2017.

## FUTURE EVENTS TO NOTE:

Apr. 3-7	Spring Break (no school)
Apr. 28	St. Paul's School Musical
May 10	St. Paul's Track and Field Day
May 24	Graduation at the 7 P.M. Worship Service

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.

## April Devotion: 'Help Is On It's Way - Fast'

*Psalm 38:22 "Come quickly to help me, O LORD my Savior."*

As a child I read a lot of science fiction. One of the things that most fascinated me was the aspect of traveling faster than the speed of light. I had no idea that light traveled so fast! I can remember trying to see light travel by standing in a dark room and turning a light on and off. Try it! Light travels fast!

The Creator of light also travels fast! God is lightening quick-especially with forgiveness. It may seem that God waits to forgive us until we actually confess our sins. But the Scriptures teach that God has actually forgiven us before we sin: "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight" (Ephesians 1:4). Now that's fast!

Receiving God's forgiveness is fast! As fast as it takes to say "I'm sorry" is as fast as God grants the forgiveness won by Jesus on the cross so long ago. As fast as it takes to partake of the bread and wine, is as fast as God's forgiveness comes to us.

Now that's fast!

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Heavenly Father, Help me to see my sin and to repent knowing that You have forgiven me! Let me also forgive others as You have forgiven me. Amen.