

**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)

We know that name calling can be a very hurtful encounter for those who are the recipients of it. Many a person has been brought to heartache and tears when another person cruelly uses his tongue to call a person all kinds of names. Yet, we must realize that not all name calling is bad. Sometimes you may be called a name because it is descriptive of whom you are.

For example, it is no crime to be called a Christian. We sometimes want to avoid being known as a Christian because it can lead people to shun us, make fun of us, and persecute us. Yet, such name calling is not bad. In his first epistle Peter is addressing Christians who are undergoing great persecution for their faith in Christ and he tells them: "If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name" (1 Peter 4:14-16).

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet." When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?" "Yes," he replied. "Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday." When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold Your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test. Always be on guard. Remember, you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself a Christian. Watch your words and control your actions that the Name you carry will be kept holy and glorified.

## Lessons in Stewardship: Stewardship Begins with Acknowledging Our Blessings

Stewardship is often found to be a difficult topic to teach and one that not many people want to hear. That is unfortunate, because in reality stewardship does not begin with giving but receiving. Whenever the Lord has talked about practicing stewardship, He has begun by reminding us how blessed we are by God. Stewardship starts with counting our blessings.

The Macedonian Christians in II Corinthians 8 are an example of this. Famine was being experienced by many at that time. We are told that the Macedonians knew “severe trial and extreme poverty.” Did this affect their giving? To a certain extent it may have. Yet, Paul was astonished by how they gave, “even beyond their ability.” What led to this generosity in giving is that they acknowledged first how rich they were in Christ Jesus. His salvation and the earthly blessings they did have were all seen as God in His grace enriching their lives for time and for eternity. In light of acknowledging God’s blessings and trusting in His providential care in the days ahead, the Macedonian Christians noted their blessings and counted it a privilege to share the blessings they had received with others.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, “You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich” (II Corinthians 8:9). “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (II Corinthians 9:7-8).

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**THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EPISTLE IS MAY 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](mailto:dburcham@stpaulsbremen.org). I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

Pastor Wonnacott and Family will be on vacation May 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>, Paul’s graduation weekend.

### ***MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US!***

National Day of Prayer Service is on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the church. We would like to invite everyone to this service. We will be having cookies and coffee following the service for our veterans.

Ascension Eve Service, Kindergarten and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation is set for May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

## **Baptism saves.**

### **(500 Year Reformation Anniversary– 1517-2017)**

God works through means. The Holy Spirit creates faith through the Word and the Sacraments. When ordinary water is combined with God's Word and connected with His command, it does exactly what God promises it will do. It saves (Titus 3:4–7; 1 Pet. 3:21). Through Baptism God forgives sins and gives the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Baptism joins you to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection (Rom. 6:4–5). Baptism gives eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus (Col. 2:11–12). Baptism makes disciples (Matt. 28:19).

These promises are for all people, young and old (Acts 2:39). These promises are fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus. For you.

### **Board Briefs:**

#### **Christian Education:**

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

**Register now for *Mighty Fortress Vacation Bible School!*** Fill out the registration form located elsewhere in this Epistle or in the Narthex. The dates for VBS are June 26 – June 30, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

#### **Parish Fellowship:**

Euchre Party is Friday, May 12<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. Come and bring a friend!

Men's Group takes place on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</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:**

**Tuition Aid Fund.** This fund functions to help school families who are in need of assistance to meet the tuition costs at the school. This fund is administered by the School Board. Your gifts to this fund would be greatly appreciated.

#### **Youth:**

##### Junior High Youth Night Dates for May

- May 5, 7-9PM, in the Gym
- May 19, 7-9PM, in the Gym
- 

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

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

**Altar Guild: May attendant is Mel.**

Altar Flowers in May:

- 7 Wayne & Robin
- 14
- 21
- 28



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.

***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.

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 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)

May 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!

We are currently ENROLLING STUDENTS for the 2017-18 school year.

## COMING EVENTS TO NOTE:

May 10	St. Paul's Track and Field Day at BHS
May 24	Last day of the 2016-17 school year
May 24	Graduation at the 7 P.M. Worship Service
Aug. 09	School begins for the 2017-18 year

We are seeking volunteers to help with the Track and Field Day on May 10. Contact the school office. Thanks!

OUR SPECIAL CHAPEL emphasis for May is Worship for Shut-Ins. Our offerings go to support this television outreach from Ft. Wayne. If you would like to donate directly to this project please contact St. Paul's School office.

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.

## May 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.