

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)

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod acknowledges the Bible to be very important to congregational life and to a Christian's personal development. This is seen in the solas of the Reformation: Sola gratia – grace alone; sola fide – faith alone; **sola Scriptura – Scripture alone**. The Bible is to be the sole source of a church's confession of faith and the basis upon which one's personal faith is founded.

Yet, while we confess the Bible to be important, our use of it does not always display that same importance. In eighth grade catechetical instruction I ask the students how often they read their Bible. A few may practice daily Bible reading, but the majority pick it up occasionally, while some use it only to complete a confirmation assignment. D. L. Moody, an American evangelist in the 1800s, said: "The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you for the Bible."

Let us consider a few truths that may help us become better daily Bible readers: **1) Remember what happens when you read the Bible.** God is talking to you. Many people have said, "I just wish God would talk to me." The reality is that God does talk to us in His Word, but we are often too busy to pick up His conversation piece and let Him talk to us. In I Kings 19:12, we are reminded that God speaks in a still small voice. Through Scripture God presents to us His wisdom and eternal truths that can help us deal with all the decisions and situations we face in life. **2) When you read the Bible don't just try and learn facts, but go into God's Word praying that God will teach you what He wants you to know.** I had a wonderful professor at the Seminary by the name of Doctor Henry Eggold. The major point in his sermon preparation class was this: "You can preach the most Biblically sound, doctrinally accurate sermon, but if people leave the church not being able to apply the message to their personal lives, you have wasted their time." We grow in the Scriptures by digesting them and asking ourselves how what we read applies to our personal life. Remember God wants to transform our hearts, minds, and lives by the Word of God we read. Ask the question with each daily reading of Scripture: "What Lord have you personally said to me through what I just read?" **3) Realize you can change how you approach the Bible.** You don't always have to read the Bible with the same plan. You can read it as it is laid out, or read it in a chronological fashion. There are some Bibles that are assembled in the chronological order. Another way to read the Bible is by studying it based upon issues with which you are dealing or topics on which you want more information and insight.

The great thing about the Bible is that whichever way you approach it on a daily basis, God is talking to you for the purpose of directing and blessing your life now and eternally. Through His Word the Holy Spirit does work to change hearts and move lives that we will "become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

Lessons in Stewardship: True Stewardship

Did you ever consider how true godly stewardship takes place? At the heart of Biblical stewardship is the Bible. Without the Bible we would have no knowledge of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ. God through Paul noted: "The holy Scriptures are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (II Timothy 3:15). The Bible tells us who Jesus is and what He has accomplished. Without the Bible we would be ignorant of our sins and have no idea that Jesus died to pay for our sins and rose again to give us life with Him in heaven.

Beyond that, the Bible is God's GPS to help us in all the decisions in life that come before us. Through the Bible God speaks to us about ways we are to walk, the thoughts that are to govern our minds, and the fruit of the Holy Spirit we are to bear.

Our use of God's Word is critical in our practicing godly, Biblical stewardship. Are you allowing God to speak to you that He may direct and comfort you every day of your life? It is in God's Word where life with the Lord is rooted, grows, and bears abundant fruit.



THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER EPISTLE IS SEPTEMBER 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. I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

Augsburg Confession

(500 Year Reformation Anniversary– 1517-2017)

The Lutherans stood before the entire world and confessed. Given the opportunity to say what they believe, they freely and joyfully confessed the truth that God justifies sinners by grace, through faith, for Christ's sake. The Augsburg Confession was read out loud on June 25, 1530, during the Diet of Augsburg. Written by Philipp Melanchthon, this document explained the faith of the Christian Church as taught by Luther in accordance with the Scriptures. Article IV contains the central confession of how God saves people. Read it. Especially Article IV.

A NEW ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin September 3rd during the Bible Study hour (9:15 am) – location to be determined. This class is for adults who are interested in becoming members here at St. Paul's. Also, for anyone who wants to be refreshed and renewed in what we believe as Lutherans – Missouri Synod. The class will be led by Pastor Wonnacott.

Board Briefs:

Christian Education:

Sunday School Mission of the Month – Burmese Ministry - \$75

Church Office:

Membership changes:

Baptized: Lillian Pulliam, DOB – 7-13-17

Deceased: John Ringle

Transferred: Janice (Sienicki) Carman to St. Michaels Lutheran, Portage, MI

Parish Fellowship:

Euchre Party is Friday, September 8th, 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, September 10th & 24th, 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:

The board is sharing information with the congregation about the pink envelopes in your giving box. These envelopes give you the opportunity to donate to charitable and service agencies in our church body. This month's focus is Lutheran World Relief.

Mission Statement: "Affirming God's love for all people, we work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering." LWR is an international nonprofit organization specializing in International Development and Disaster Relief. LWR promotes sustainable development by helping communities increase the quality of life, engage in Fair Trade and be better equipped to handle emergencies. Vision Statement:

"Empowered by God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ, we envision a world in which each person, every community and all generations live in justice, dignity and peace."

The church just received another payment of \$33.00 from AmazonSmile. At no expense to church members, Amazon will donate 0.5% of most purchases made by church members, directly to the church.

To register, go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to bookmark smile.amazon.com or put it in your Favorites to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at the AmazonSmile Program.

This program does not affect any of your present Amazon Account settings.

Youth:

Jr. High Youth Nights –

All 6th-8th graders for the 2017-2018 school year are invited to attend our Youth Nights for the month of September. The Youth Nights will be on September 1st, September 15th, and September 29th, all at 7-9PM, in the Gym. Join us for two hours of sports and fellowship. Invite your friends. Please be sure sign a medical waiver form before attending for the first time. For

Board Briefs cont:

those that do not attend St. Paul’s Day School, please ask Kyle Rettinger for a copy of the medical waiver form.

Jr. High Youth Rally –

For those that have signed up to attend, this is a friendly reminder that the Youth Rally will take place on September 16th (Saturday) & September 17th (Sunday) at Camp Lutherhaven. We will be leaving from the St. Paul’s Church Parking at 9AM on Saturday, September 16th. We will return to St. Paul’s around 1 PM on Sunday afternoon, September 17th. Please bring money for canteen (candy, ice cream, and beverages) and for lunch at a fast-food restaurant on the way back to Bremen. Please contact Kyle Rettinger, if you have any additional questions.

Sr. High Open Gym/Study Time –

We are starting a brand new regularly scheduled event for the Senior High Youth! We will be having these events on Wednesdays. The first two are scheduled for Wednesday, September 6th and Wednesday, September 20th, 7-9PM in the Gym. Youth are welcome to come and play sports on the Gym floor. The Youth are welcome to bring homework to work on in the balcony. If you need assistance with your homework, the adult supervisors will be more than willing to help in every way they can. There will also be **free food**. Friends are welcome to come as well. Please be sure sign a medical waiver form before attending for the first time.

2017 Voters’ Assembly meetings: November 27

2017 Parish Planning Council: October 23

Altar Guild: September attendant is Kay Miller.

Altar Flowers in September:

- 3 Joe & Cheryl Ervin
- 10 Dave & Deb Burcham
- 17 Bud & Pat Cherry
- 24 Wayne & Robin Spicher



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.

REGISTRATION FOR LIFELIGHT

(Pre-registration helps to make sure we have ample supply of materials!)

THE TRIUNE GOD is the topic of discussion.

Each Wednesday, Sept. 13th through November 8th, 6:45 – 8:15 p.m.

Name(s)

Telephone: _____

Please return to church office by Sept 3rd. Thank You!

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!!

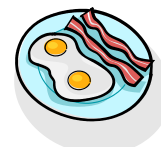
The Ladies Encouragement Group (LEG) Bible Study meets the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 7 p.m. in the Jerusalem Room at church. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to attend! We have just started a bible study entitled Living Victoriously– A Walk Through The Book of Ephesians. Copies of this study may be picked up in the church office. Please join us!



Ladies Encouragement Group
Moving our feet, shining our light!



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:

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!

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study will begin on Thursday, September 7, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We will be studying, **LIVING VICTORIOUSLY**, A Walk Through the Book of Ephesians. The purpose of this Bible Study is to lead us into a deeper relationship with God through the study of Scripture and by embracing the self-discipline of a Spirit-led life. All women are cordially invited to attend this uplifting study.

Martin Luther said: “Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in Him unless he knew where His believers are?”

SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

School Office phone: 546-2790

Fax: 546-3242

e-mail: schools@stpaulsbremen.org

September 2017

Our theme for the 2017-2018 school year is It's Still All About Jesus, based on Hebrew 13:8 (ESV): "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." We give thanks to God for His unchanging grace toward us all!

Indiana District Teachers Conference:

This year the Teachers Conference is very early. Students will not have school on September 28 & 29. The teachers will be meeting in Ft. Wayne at Concordia High School.

Chapel projects /offerings for 2017-2018:

Aug/Sept.- Bremen Food Bank & Fort Wayne Seminary Food Bank

Oct - Liberian Schools

Nov /Dec - Rev. Micah Wildauer: Togo

Jan/Feb - Seminarian Support

Mar - Camp Lutherhaven

Apr – Jamielynn Tinkey: Dominican Republic

May – Worship for Shut-Ins

Also->\$20/ mo. to the Tuition Aid Fund

We give thanks to God for all of His gracious love! We also thank God for all of our VOLUNTEERS. 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.**

September Devotion: "Hearts, Hands and Voices"

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:15-17

Europe's Thirty Years' War was fought from 1618 to 1648. Martin Rinkart was a pastor from 1611 to 1649. During a single year, 1636, Martin Rinkart buried 5,000 people from his community. That's almost 100 every week. Day after day, Rinkart tasted the worst that war could dish up.

The year the plague came to Rinkart's town of Eilenburg, there were four pastors serving the community. One ran away, and Rinkart ended up burying the other two.

Now, if you take a look in a Christian hymnal -- just about any Christian hymnal -- you will find that in the year 1636, Martin Rinkart wrote a prayer for his children. That poem is a hymn now. It reads,

"Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way,
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today."

To continue to sing songs of thanksgiving when faced with the insecurity of an unknown tomorrow is a most unusual gift. Not everyone has that gift -- not back then, not *now*, especially not now.

Today, our country has many problems. It is the same in our nation's homes. No sooner does one threat pass by that two more are identified. There seems to be no end to the trouble that seems ever ready and eager to insert itself into our days.

If you agree, and if you find yourself being pressed on every side, then maybe it's time to take a page from Rinkart's poem book. Maybe it's time to thank our God. And if you can think of nothing for which to express your appreciation, here is a starter list: 1. Your town doesn't have the plague. 2. You haven't had to bury a few thousand people. 3. You have the Lord by your side at all times.

Now you may not *feel like* thanking the Lord for those gifts. If so, remember, we can still show our appreciation for, as Rinkart put it, the "wondrous things He hath done." Yes, we can thank Him for His Son, for forgiveness and peace, which is given to those who believe. Indeed we can show our appreciation that God's justice and grace have come together in the Person of His Son, our Savior.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, create a new and thankful heart within me. Grant me the grace to acknowledge and appreciate the wondrous things You have done. This I ask in Your Name. Amen.

