

Address:

605 S. Center St.
Bremen, IN 46506

Telephone:

Church:
1-574-546-2332
School:
1-574-546-2790
Preschool:
1-574-546-2848

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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)

When we think of Christmas several things come to mind. The season of Christmas is connected with special lights, special music, and special gifts. During the Sunday worship services in December, we will consider these three aspects of the Christmas season as we consider the songs of men and of angels found in the Bible at the time of Jesus' birth.

Martin Luther said of music: "Beautiful music is the act of the prophets that can calm the agitation of the soul; it is one of most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music."

During the Sundays in December we will consider songs of spiritual utterance that were given to men, women, and angels. Studying these songs of music inspired by God we will see that the lights of Christmas point to Jesus Who is the Light of the world, and we will see the special blessings that come through this One Who was born in a mere manger at Bethlehem.

May this Christmas season be filled with music that dwells within our hearts and flows from our lips. As the Psalmist admonished us: "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples" (Psalm 96:1-3).

May Christ bless your celebration of Christmas this year as you fill your hearts with the songs God gave to His people and angels. May you know and live the message that in Christ there will be "peace on earth good will to men" (Luke 2:14).

Lessons in Stewardship: Our Gift to Jesus

Getting a gift for someone can be a very challenging endeavor, especially if the person we seek to give a gift already has everything.

That's true of our Lord, isn't it? He has everything. All we are and all we have really belong to Him. At a moment's notice our health can fail us, our property can be destroyed, and our family can be taken from us. Job knows all about this. God is the source of all we have, and what He has given us has been entrusted to us for God-pleasing use. So what can we really give God?

What God desires is to have our hearts. We can refuse to acknowledge Him, live for Him, and seek to do His will in all matters. He still owns all things, including our time on earth, but He wants our hearts that we may live to bring Him honor and glory, and bring the message of the Gospel to all people.

In this Christmas season when we consider what we can give to someone who has everything, let us reflect upon these words of an old Lutheran hymn in which the Lord speaks to us: 'I gave Myself for thee; My precious blood I shed, That thou might'st ransomed be And quickened from the dead. I gave My life for thee; What hast thou giv'n to Me? 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 for Me" ([I Gave My Life for Thee](#)).



THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY EPISTLE IS DECEMBER 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!

Lutheran theology brings joy.

(500 Year Reformation Anniversary– 1517-2017)

The heart and soul of Lutheran theology is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God loves you!! That's good news. All your sins are forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This forgiveness is given to you for free. It is a gift of God for you.

The most important teaching of Lutheran theology is that God loves you with no effort, merit, or work on your behalf. God loves you. He sent His only Son to die and rise for you. His love is fulfilled in the Gospel. That is good news and fills us with joy. God loves you for all of eternity. Freely. That will never change.

Pastor Wonnacott will be on vacation December 26th through January 8th.

Congregational Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 3 at 4:00 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 4:00 pm to break up into groups and then go out and sing. At 6:00 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.

Come and share the Good News of Christmas!

St. Paul's will be collecting peanut butter (18 oz jars) for Bremen Bags (a Project HELP Program) during December. Please place your donations on the table at the back of the Narthex. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate in an envelope marked Peanut Butter.



Each Friday during the school year, volunteers from Bremen Bags delivers a bag of non-perishable food items to be sent home with a qualifying student.

There is no cost to this program.

Sponsored by St. Paul's Board of Stewardship.

Midweek Advent Meal and Service on December 6th. The meal is sponsored by the Public Relations board. On the menu are chili and cornbread and cookies. This is a Thrivent sponsored meal. Parish fellowship will also be supplying the drinks and dinnerware. Let us come together and feast on good food and the Word of God.

Midweek Advent Meal and Service on December 13th. The meal is sponsored by the LEG group. On the menu are chicken legs, green beans, potatoe, rolls, salad and cookies. Parish fellowship will also be supplying the drinks and dinnerware. Let us come together and feast on good food and the Word of God.

*Children's Christmas Service is December 20th at 7pm.
Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24th at 7pm
Christmas Day – Monday, December 25th at 9am*



Board Briefs:

Christian Education:

Sunday School Mission of the Month – Bethesda Lutheran Home - \$75

New Adult Bible class starting Sunday, December 3rd. Listening to God – As Christians one of our greatest concerns is to be listening to God, hearing His voice, and doing His will. Yet, listening to God does not come easily. In this Bible study we shall consider how God seeks to speak to us, how we can better hear His voice, and how this can help us deal with the issues we confront in our in our daily lives. This class will be taught by Pastor Rohde in the Bethany Room.

Lay Ministry: Caring Concern - The Fourth Commandment: (God’s Representatives)

This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. The exception is the children dismissed for Children’s Church. (3 years old to 2nd grade) They are escorted to Children’s Church by an adult and they are returned to the sanctuary by a member of the Board of Lay Ministry. In the Fourth Commandment, ‘What does this mean’ Luther’s last phrase is, “love and cherish them”. Any questions you may have please contact a member of the Board of Lay Ministry.

The Fourth Commandment – Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Parish Fellowship:

Men’s Group takes place on Sundays, December 10th, 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.

Euchre Party is Friday, December 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!

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

Stewardship: One of the charitable options on the pink offering envelope is the Bethesda Lutheran Home in Watertown, WI. The mission of the Bethesda Lutheran Communities is to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Another AmazonSmile payment totaling \$57.00 was received. To register, to go smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to bookmark smile.amazon.com or put this 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.

Altar Guild: December attendant is Dorothy Sahlhoff.

Altar Flowers in December:

- 3
- 10 Enders/Wonnacott
- 17
- 24
- 31

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.

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and The Lutheran Church-Canada in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

St. Paul's Lutheran Women's Missionary League Society

COMING UP !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

DECEMBER 3, 2017 "Cheer Tins" for our home-bound members

These will be filled by LWML & delivered as the congregation goes caroling (4:00 PM)

If you would like to contribute items to fill the tins, please bring 1 ½ to 2 dozen individually- wrapped items to the church kitchen Sunday morning, December 3!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:25-6:45 pm, LWML will hold a brief meeting in the Jerusalem Room prior to the Advent Service. We need to set the menu for Spring Bible Break. Everyone is welcome.

FEBRUARY 5, 2018 7:00 PM (starting in the church proper)

Program: Prayer Service on Vocations, led by Pastor Wonnacott

Afterward, away-from-home "College Goodie Boxes" will be packed!

Make sure the Church Office has your college student's address, or no box!

MARCH 17, 2018 (Saturday)

SOUTH BEND ZONE SPRING BIBLE BREAK 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Here at St. Paul's: 9:00-9:30 AM (registration) – Morning Bible Study, led by Pastor Rohde

After a light Lunch, we have a "servant event" planned.

All ladies are invited & encouraged to attend, especially the Bible Study portion.

Guests welcome. Freewill offering to cover luncheon costs.

APRIL 9, 2018 Monday 7:00 PM

We will be hosting speaker Deaconess Christel
Neuendorf,

Missionary to Panama & Dominican Republic

SOUTH BEND ZONE: is comprised of the Congregations of *St. Paul's*, Bremen; *Trinity*, Elkhart; *Prince of Peace*, Goshen; *St. Peter*, Mishawaka; *Calvary*, Plymouth; *Emmaus*, Our Redeemer, & *St. Paul*, South Bend; *Redeemer*, & *St. Peter's*, Warsaw; *St. Paul*, Woodland
These are the "local" sisters in Christ we meet & fellowship with at Zone events.

Web sites: 'National' LWML: lwml.org

Indiana District: indianalwml.org – South Bend Zone under drop down 'Area 1' tab

The Quarterly magazine is located in the tract rack. If there are none there, please mention it to an LWML officer (Elaine Young, Linda Tinkey, Barb Middaugh, Shirley Lakins) and we will try to locate one. If you have already taken one, and are finished, you may return it to the rack to be "passed around." Thank you.

PROGRAM BOOKLETS FOR 2018, ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TRACT RACK!

We encourage every woman, confirmation age & above, to consider making it a goal to participate in at least one program in the coming year. Your presence is always welcome.

SAVE YOUR STAMPS: ANY KIND, FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC, EVEN 'FOREVER' STAMPS:

Trim to 1/4" or place the stamp corner in the box provided in the narthex & LWML will trim.

District receives funds from the collected stamps which are used for District projects. Thank you.

" S e r v e t h e L o r d w i t h G l a d n e s s " LWML motto; *Psalm 100:2a*
St. Paul's 172nd Liturgical Year, December 3, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Eleven (11) Upcoming Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives (*Communion)

Sunday (reg. Times 8:00 & 10:30 am unless noted)

Weekday

December 3 1st Sunday of Advent
pm

November 29 1st Advent Wednesday 7:00 pm

December 6 2nd Advent Wednesday 7:00

*December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent
pm

December 13 3rd Advent Wednesday 7:00

December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent
Service 7:00 pm

December 20 Wednesday Children's

*December 24 **Unity Service 9:30 am** 4th Sunday of Advent - *The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord (Sunday) 7:00 pm*

December 25 9:00 am (Christmas Day – Monday) The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

*December 31 **Unity Service 9:30 am** 1st Sunday after Christmas

CHRISMONS A term derived from the combination: CHRIS(t) + MON(ogram). They are signs, symbols, or a combination of designs which point to the name of Christ, His attributes, or to His saving work. True Chrismons are GOLD and WHITE, signifying the majesty and purity of our Lord. *[Please note: the illustrations are for reference -- see the tree for the 'real' thing!]* Listed below are a few Chrismon designs:

★ STAR: a symbol of divinity. The 5-pt star has long been associated with the Star of Bethlehem, and the visit of the wise men. When paired with a ROSE (a symbol of humanity), it represents the personal union of Christ -- (star/True God; rose/ True Man). The 8-pt star, or Star of Jacob, is from Numbers 24:17, a Messianic prophecy: *"A star shall come out of Jacob; A scepter shall rise out of Israel."*

CROSS: □ All crosses point to Jesus' sacrificial death. Used alone, it is an emblem of our faith. The LATIN CROSS, with a longer vertical arm, is the most common style in Western Christendom.

□ The GREEK CROSS has four equal arms. There are several combinations: NIKA is Greek for conqueror (Jesus has conquered death through the cross); with CROWNS it depicts His present & eternal reign as our King. A CIRCLE stands for eternity (Christ and His kingdom is without end); with ROSES it symbolizes the fulfillment of messianic prophecies through our Lord's death.

T TAU CROSS & SERPENT: Shaped like a capital T, this symbol is drawn from John 3:14,15: *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."*

ΑΩ The ALPHA & The OMEGA (first & last letters of the Greek alphabet). When paired with any Chrismon it points to Jesus as eternal, almighty, living God. *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," say the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*" Revelation 1:8

& OPEN BIBLE: The Word of God, which reveals to us the life-giving words and works in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *"The Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."* II Timothy 3:15

ÿ DOVE: A symbol of the Holy Spirit who creates and sustains our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior. *"And John bore witness, saying, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven, like a dove, and He remained upon Him.'" John 1:32 "and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."* I Corinthians 12:3b

□ FISH: The sign of the fish has been associated with the Lord since the 1st century, and is combined with many symbols to show His saving work, such as 'bread in a basket.' The Greek word for fish is ichthys; and its letters form the acrostic: I (Jesus) X (Christ), Q (God's) Y (Son), C (Savior).

□ CANDLE: light. There is only one True Light. Jesus spoke: *"I am the light of the world, He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

□ LAMB: standing with the banner of victory signifies Christ's victory over sin and death. It is a symbol of the risen Lord. *"The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* I Corinthians 15:56-57

December Minor Festivals □ And Commemorations Of The Church Year

4 John of Damascus, Theologian & Hymnwriter ~ 6 Nicholas of Myra, Pastor ~

7 Ambrose of Milan, Pastor & Hymnwriter ~ 13 Lucia, Martyr ~

17 Daniel the Prophet & the Three Young Men ~ 19 Adam & Eve ~ 20 Katharina von Bora Luther ~

21 St. Thomas, Apostle □ ~ 26 St. Stephen, Church's First Martyr □ ~

27 St. John, Evangelist & Apostle □ ~ 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs of Our Lord □ ~ 29 David

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!!

Come be a part of the Ladies Encouragement Group (LEG)! We're beginning a new study on Sunday January 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm. We meet in the Jerusalem Room on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month for Bible study. All ladies are invited! Our new study is Uninvited by Lysa TerKeurst. This study includes a video journey in the Holy Land to experience scripture like never before. It's a beautiful reminder to believe that we are destined for a love that can never be diminished, tarnished, shaken or taken. With Jesus you are always invited in. Books will be available in the church office or from Joanna Fox at 574-248-0549



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:

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 is 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. We meet Thursday mornings from 9 to 11 am in the Jerusalem Room.

SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

School Office phone: 546-2790

Fax: 546-3242

e-mail: schools@stpaulsbremen.org

December 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!

Join us in encouraging our school BASKETBALL teams. This month we have the following home games: Dec. 5 (7&8th), Dec. 7 (4-6th), Dec. 14 (4-6th), Dec. 18 (7&8th), & Dec. 19 (Both teams). The times are listed on the Epistle Calendar along with the schedule of the away games.

As It is approaching the time for the CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, please continue to pray for our students and their families. We seek to keep the true meaning of this season in the eyes (and hearts) for our students and their families. We need your prayers and assistance.

The Children's Christmas Service is Dec. 20 at 7 P.M.

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

Remaining Chapel projects /offerings for 2017-2018:

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

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 Boxtops for Education labels and send them to school. 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. 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.

December Devotion: "A Terrifying Sight!"

Leviticus 10:1-2: And there appeared to him (Zechariah) an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense (Luke 1:11).

Zechariah is on cloud nine as he steps into the temple. Yet as awesome and splendid as the temple itself is, Zechariah sees something few priests before him ever saw when they stood inside the temple. Beside the altar of incense is a glorious angel of the Lord. Standing in the presence of the holy angel he feels his deep guilt and uncleanness. Terror fills his heart.

Maybe you have had a moment like that—a moment of incredible guilt and remorse, exposed to your friends and family. Zechariah is trembling in terror, wondering if this moment will be his last. The shepherds will have this exact same reaction on Christmas night when another angel bursts through the darkness of night to announce the birth of God's Son, the Christ.

In the same way, the thought of stepping through the door into God's presence in heaven at the end of our life is exhilarating—exhilarating, that is, until we stop and realize our sinful guilt. Not a single one of us is worthy on our own account to stand before our holy God.

But that is precisely why God sent His Son that first Christmas: to take away our sin and make us worthy to stand before Him throughout eternity.

THE PRAYER: Lord God, it is a frightening thing for a sinner to come into the presence of a holy angel—even more to stand before You. Thank You for sending Jesus to take away the sin of the world. Grant me faith that I may stand before You in righteousness and holiness all my days—and especially on that great day. In Jesus' Name. Amen.