

August 9, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace be yours!

Grace to you and peace from God: our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer!

During these hot summer days, we offer thanksgiving and praise for your faithfulness to God through the ministries and missions of St. Paul United Church of Christ.

This coming Sunday, August 15, children and youth of all ages are invited to bring backpacks to worship to have them blessed. All students will also receive a token of that blessing to take with them to school.

Following worship this Sunday, Pastor Becky will meet with parents and students in preparation for the upcoming Confirmation year in the Chapel. Confirmation is open to all students eighth grade and above and will meet on Wednesday evenings beginning in September.

You will notice in the included financials that we are down over \$8000 in giving versus expenditures. While it is typical for giving to dip during summer months, we take time to remind you that your financial gifts to St. Paul Church keeps our many ministries and missions strong as we seek to love God and love our neighbors. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of others. We thank you for your generosity.

Thank you for your faithfulness to St. Paul Church! Together we are the Body of Christ in this community.

Blessings,



Roland Dicke
Council President



Myra Hanenkratt
Council VP



Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of Aug 9, 2021

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$2,245.00 (weekly)
Endowment Transfers \$14,117.00(ytd)
Income \$177,690.71(ytd)
Expenses \$185,993.59 (ytd)
Balance **(\$8,302.88)** (ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37
Income \$41,130.00 (ytd)
Endowment Income \$2,535.26(ytd)
Expenses \$36,942.75 (ytd)
Balance \$80,366.88 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20
Income \$18,423.00 (ytd)
Expenses \$9,847.30(ytd)
Balance \$14,825.90
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15
Bless Pantry Inc. \$17,231.00(ytd)
Bless Pantry Ex. \$9,813.07(ytd)
BP Balance \$15,299.08

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$262.00(weekly)
Income \$17,232.00 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$50.00(weekly)
Balance \$3,493.00(ytd)

AUGUST 15, 2021
TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus as the bread of life binds us together.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 6:51-58	Christ, the true food and drink
Monday	Proverbs 9:1-6	Wisdom's feast
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:15-20	Be filled with the Spirit
Wednesday	Acts 2:41-47	Life among believers
Thursday	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	The Lord's Supper
Friday	Matthew 26:17-30	The Passover with the disciples
Saturday	Psalms 34:9-14	God teaches the fear of the Lord
Sunday	John 6:56-71	Many disciples desert Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." **John 6:51 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for your love that unites us in Christ and promises us life everlasting. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of this food today, just as we thank you for Jesus Christ and the gift of his presence to know and to share with one another. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the bread of heaven, bless you with life and faith now and always.



© 2020 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

AUGUST 15, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some ways you enjoy spending time with family and friends?
- How does having meals together help build relationships?
- How does the Lord's Supper help you experience and feel the closeness of the Christian community?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 6:51-58.

John's Gospel does not have the words adapted for the Lord's Supper that one finds in Matthew, Luke, or 1 Corinthians. However, here you have Jesus speaking in terms that clearly reflect the Lord's Supper. John's Gospel interprets the meal's significance as a new manna, the bread from heaven that the Israelites received in the wilderness. While the Israelites would continue to complain and turn away from God, those who receive Jesus in the Lord's Supper, the bread from heaven, will live forever. They will abide with Jesus and Jesus with them. Jesus, as the bread from heaven, binds us together as the community of disciples. Such is the power and meaning of this meal for all generations. In the Lord's Supper Jesus has a relationship to his followers and his followers enjoy a relationship to each other. How does the Lord's Supper strengthen your relationship to other Christians? How does the Lord's Supper help you in your relationship with Jesus?

Pray: **Living God, we thank you for Jesus and the Lord's Supper that binds us to him, to one another, and to the promise of eternal life with you. Amen.**

SERVICE

Sharing a meal together is a valuable way to nurture relationships. Invite friends, family, especially those who live alone to have a meal with you, so that you may get to know them better and bless them with your care. Talk about your recent highs and lows and then pray together.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Ephesians 5:19 encourages us to *"sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your heart."* Think of some of your favorite hymns, children's songs, and psalms from the Bible. Sing them, read them as an offering to God, or listen to them online as music strengthens you in your life of faith.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

ST. PAUL U.C.C. BLESSING OF BACKPACKS



St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)

Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net or stpaulnb@gmail.com

Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New

Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Becky Strang-Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Schroer-Associate Pastor

Roland Dicke-Council President

Welcome to St. Paul UCC, we are glad you are here!!

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, we welcome you to this service of worship. We hope that you will find it meaningful.

August 15, 2021

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Blessing of Backpacks

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Cheyenne Olt

Beverly Plattner

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

Liturgist

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF CANDLES: You are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

No mat-ter who, — no mat-ter what — no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. — No mat-ter
who, — no mat-ter what, — no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

To verses | Last time, Fine

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Eugene Peterson's The Message; Psalm 138:1-6)

Leader: Thank you! Everything in me says, "Thank you!"

People: Angels listen as we sing our thanks. We say it again:
"Thank you!"

Leader: Thank you for your love; thank you for your faithfulness.

People: Most holy is your name; most holy is your Word.

Leader: The moment I called out, you stepped in; you made my life large with strength.

People: When they hear what you have to say, God, all the earth's kings will say, "Thank you."

Leader: They'll sing of what you've done: "How great the glory of God!"

People: And here's why: God, high above, sees far below; no matter the distance, God knows everything about us! Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* verses 1 & 4

GOD OF MAJESTY & POWER

48 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

G C Am D Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

G C Am D Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G Em $\frac{G}{B}$ D

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see

G C Am D Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

INVOCATION (in unison)

We come before you, God of hosts, in reverence and awe, for you are a consuming Fire. You are far greater than we can imagine: judging, transforming, and upholding. Grant us to enter by the narrow door and to walk uprightly today and every day. Bless our time together, that we may be a blessing to others we meet along life's way. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI 734

Glory Be to the Father Glory Be to the Father

Musical score for 'Glory Be to the Father' in E-flat major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.' The score includes various chords such as Eb, Bb7sus, Bb7, Eb, Bb/D, Bb, Eb, Bb/D, Eb6, Bb/F, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Bb, Gm/Bb, Bb7, and Eb.

WORDS: *Gloria Patri*, 2nd c.
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex (1813-1858)

GREATOREX
Irregular

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Gracious God, as the summer begins to fade, new possibilities lie on the horizon.

Bless all of those who are beginning or returning to their roles as teachers, aides and administrators, as well as those who lead and support them in their efforts. May this school year be a time of grace and potential as they teach, share, and challenge others to grow in faith, knowledge, and wisdom.

Bless children and youth, along with their parents, as they begin a new school year. May their minds be open to learning and to the wonder of discovery and insight.

Be with us all as we embark on this new year. Amen.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Birth Candles welcome Myles Steven Imwalle and Lincoln Dennis Elsass. Myles was born on July 30, 2021. He is the son of Brett and Michelle Imwalle, brother of Vivian and grandson of Kris and Steve Imwalle. Lincoln was born on June 21, 2021. He is the son of Travis and April Elsass, brother of Bennett and grandson of Randy and Karen Elsass. Welcome Myles and Lincoln!!!!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Tom Topp, Karl Mesloh, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Levi Bushman, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER. PERSONAL PRAYER. THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Let us pray. Holy God, we pray for this modern world in which faith comes hard, where people find it difficult to raise their eyes above the material things that are so necessary for life. We pray for those who find it hard to believe because they have too many things, and for those who find it hard because they haven't enough. SILENCE

We pray for those who have more to eat than they need and for those who are dying from lack of food. Challenge us, O God, to feed our neighbors who are hungry. SILENCE

We pray for parents who, because of their poverty and lack of concern on the part of others, must watch their children die. Move us, O God, to be part of the solution to eliminate poverty so that no child must go to bed hungry or die from basic nourishment. SILENCE

We pray for those who suffer from disease, from confusion and guilt, from depression and fear. Remind us again and again, O God, that so many people around us suffer in silence. Open our eyes that we might see their suffering and, in response, offer real hope. SILENCE

We pray for those who are lonely, for whom life is robbed of its beauty and hope. Prod us, O God, to befriend those who are alone. Remind us

to love all your children—including our enemies--that all might experience your transformational love and grace. SILENCE

We pray this day for ourselves—for we stumble and fall more often than we would like to admit. We let our prejudices get the best of us. We harden our hearts against others. Offer us your soothing balm. Melt our hardened hearts. Teach us to reach out to those whose lives are vastly different from our own. SILENCE

We offer to you thanksgiving and praise for your presence in our lives as individuals and our lives as this particular Body of Christ. Continue to pour your Holy Spirit upon us that we might be refreshed once again by the gentleness of your wind. SILENCE.

All of this we pray in the holy name of Jesus who taught us to pray...**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Dick Hudson

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

(NSRV)

*Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?*

*² On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;*

*³ beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:*

*⁴ "To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all that live.*

*The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.*

*²³ Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.*

*²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.*

*²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—*

*²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.*

*²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,*

*²⁸ when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,*

*²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,*

*³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,*

*³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.*

RESPONSE

Leader: The word of God for the people of God!

People: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

The story goes something like this: a woman once went into the marketplace, looked around, and saw a sign that read, "God's Fruit Stand." "Well, thank goodness," the woman said to herself, "It's about time."

She went inside and she said, "Since this is God's Fruit Stand, I would like a perfect banana, a perfect cantaloupe, a perfect strawberry, and a perfect peach."

God, who was behind the counter, merely shrugged his shoulders and said, "I'm sorry. I only sell seeds."

If you, too, have ever hoped for perfect gifts from God, only to be given seeds, I'm guessing you will appreciate the one who is personified in this week's reading from Proverbs. For indeed, the one who is calling us is none other than creation's first street preacher—and a woman at that!

You've heard me talk about her before. She is known by the Greek name Sophia in biblical literature and she is that female representative of the mystery of God sometimes called Wisdom. She is the most developed personification of God's presence and activity in the Hebrew scriptures. And yes—the translations are of a female: Hokmah in Hebrew; Sophia in Greek; Sapientia in Latin. She is consistently depicted as sister, mother, female beloved, chef and hostess, preacher, judge, liberator, establisher of justice and a myriad of other female roles in which she symbolizes God's power ordering and delighting in the universe. She is that presence which pervades the world, both nature and human beings, interacting with them in an effort to lure them/to call them along the right path. And yet, we rarely talk about her in worship or at Bible studies.

After appearing briefly in the book of Job as a treasure whose whereabouts are known only to God, Wisdom/Sophia/Spirit strides into the Book of Proverbs noisily proclaiming her message to anyone who will listen. She is a street preacher, a prophet, crying aloud in the market, on the street corners at the cities gates. Far from the stereotypic submissive woman, Sophia-Wisdom is street-wise, justice-driven, a passionate figure who wants nothing less than that everyone should follow her playful, determined footsteps as she seeks both to transform and delight in the created world.

It is almost as if she is saying, "You had better do what I say if you know what's good for you. There are no hidden clauses or tricks in what I am selling, no trick questions and no risk. What I offer leads to life, the kind that is more secure than any bank account. The ones who love what I am about find me and they are never disappointed. I am the goodness that is never ending and the life that is always unfolding. I am the energy that accompanied God in the very beginning, I am the one who gets things done. I am the one in whom God delights. Follow me and you will delight in God."

Sophia/Wisdom is that creative energy of God that is forever trying to lure us into life and life abundant. What might this mean for us as the summer heats up and we begin looking for cooler days of clarity?

This I believe: God's Spirit—Sophia/Wisdom—who fills each of us, is given to us in the form of a seed. It is up to us to nurture the Spirit's growth within our lives and the lives of those around us. It is up to us to

join Sophia-Wisdom on the street corners and marketplaces, crying out for justice and love.

But choosing to dance with the Spirit does not guarantee a life free of pain and suffering. Remember the words of Paul to the church in Rome (Romans 5:1-5): *we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

Friends, we will not get through this life without a good dose of suffering. That is not to say that God dumps the suffering upon us. Not at all. Instead, life is filled with brokenness, sin, and pain. It is how we choose to handle our suffering that makes all the difference in the world.

This I believe: when we enter God's fruit stand, we are handed seeds of hope. These seeds, when planted in good soil, watered, and tended, will produce a lifetime of faithfulness. The seeds of hope give us the opportunity to see God's Spirit in one another—even in our enemies. The seeds of hope move us to forgive those who have harmed us. The seeds of hope beckon us to ask forgiveness of those we have harmed. The seeds of hope do not disappoint because they are planted and tended with God's extravagant love.

The gift we are given today is that Wisdom/Sophia comes walking down our street and down the aisles of our sanctuary as we are going about our everyday business. God's creative Spirit bursts onto the scene of our souls when we are busy in the fields, caring for the livestock, keeping our houses clean, and shuttling our children and grandchildren to and fro.

And what is this gift? I've talked about the seeds of hope. I've talked about God's creative Spirit. I've talked about Wisdom's presence in our lives. But we are offered yet one more gift as Christians. According to the Apostle Paul, we celebrate because God's love has been poured into us!

Now how cool is that? What might our lives look like if we treated one another as people filled with love? How might we care for our earth if we saw God's creative spark in everything around us? How might we go through these ordinary days of August, turning them not into holidays, but

Holy Days because we have been given seeds of hope to plant in the days, weeks and months to come?

So my dear friends, let us go forth from this holy place as people of hope, as people of the Spirit, as people of love. And let us share that hope, Spirit and love with others that all might know God's amazing grace. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE *Seek Ye First*

Seek Ye First

349

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you, seek and

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of the hymn. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef. Chord symbols D, F#m, G, D, and G are placed above the staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with two verses: '1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its' and '2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you, seek and'.

D G/D D Em7 A7 D F#m

right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of the hymn. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef. Chord symbols D, G/D, D, Em7, A7, D, and F#m are placed above the staff. The lyrics are: 'right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be' and 'ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be'.

G D G D/A G/A D/A Em7/G A7 D

add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of the hymn. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef. Chord symbols G, D, G, D/A, G/A, D/A, Em7/G, A7, and D are placed above the staff. The lyrics are: 'add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!' and 'o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!'.

WORDS and MUSIC: Karen Lafferty (1948-); para. Matthew 6:33, 7:7

Words and Music © 1972 Maranatha! Music (Admin. The Copyright Company)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING SENTENCES: Today I share wisdom from 1 John 3:17—*How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?* Friends, our generosity—given out of our poverty AND our abundance—can be the difference between life and death for our neighbors. Let us give with open hearts and open hands.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system covers the lyrics: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;". The second system covers: "praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost." Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line. The first system has chords: G, D, Em, Bm, Em, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D. The second system has chords: Em, D/F#, G, D, G/B, C, F#dim/A, G, Em, D, Am, G/B, D7, G.

WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561); *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th
L.M.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

For the joy of sharing in your new covenant in Jesus Christ and being a part of your unshakable realm in our midst, we give thanks, O Holy God. For turning our self-centered values upside down so that love may become the rule of life, we rejoice with hymns of gratitude. For your generous gifts to us, which we now return and dedicate to your service, we sing our appreciation and praise. Amen.

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 344

Unison ^C

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
 2 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -
 3 Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go
 4 Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

^F ^C

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -
 with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will
 cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

^C ^{D7} ^{G7} ^C
_{G A B}

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 Je - sus?— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

BENEDICTION: Children, families, and all who love them, go out into the beautiful world that God has made!

Go and play!

Go and learn!

Go and love others!

May you be filled with loving-kindness for yourself and everyone around you.

May the prayers of your faith community keep you safe, healthy, and full of joy. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*
Pass the Love

♩=95

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 C7

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go - ing on your way.

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 G7 C

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in — ev - 'ry way.

Fmaj7 Dm F/G F/C

Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.

Am7 Dm7 Gm7 F/C C7 F

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our — God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Wilbert Gruebmeyer by Janet and Bob Eilerman and Family.

Attendance-Daily Devotions-58, August 1-Sunday Worship Online-295, In Person-60.

Daily Devotions-Please join Pastor Becky Monday-Thursday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page: St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

Sundays in August-Worship will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am.

Bulletin Availability-weekly bulletins are available for download on our website stpaulnb.org. Just click the yellow **BULLETINS** box in the upper right hand corner.

September/October Upper Rooms-are available at the East entrance to the education building and on the round tables in the sanctuary. Or please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

Mailbox-There is a mailbox outside of the East Educational Building door for any correspondence you may have for the church and would like to drop off. Please lift the flap and drop through the slot on the top. Thank you!

Confirmation for 8th grade and older students begins Wednesday, September 15. A Confirmation Orientation Meeting will take place Sunday, August 15 at 11:30. Letters have gone out to the 8th graders inviting them to join confirmation. If you have an 8th grader who didn't receive a letter or an older student who would like to join confirmation, please join us for today's meeting. Thank you.

Discipleship Team News-During lock-down last year, we learned that many families do not have school supplies at home for their children to do homework. The Discipleship Team is collecting school supplies to provide at-home school kits for our Blessing Pantry guest.

Donations needed include: 24 pack Crayola crayons, pencils, pencil sharpener, Elmer's white glue, purple glue sticks, large erasers, Fiskars kids scissors, 10 count Crayola fine-tip markers, colored pencils, highlighters, wide-ruled spiral notebooks, scotch tape, Crayola watercolor paints, blue ink pens, math and reading flash cards, coloring books and old magazines (for kids to cut out pictures as homework). Donations need to be placed on the auditorium stage at St. Paul Church by Wednesday August 18. Thank you for your ongoing generosity, as together we love God and love our neighbors.

Refugee Ration Challenge-our monthly mission for August focuses on providing food for refugees—especially refugees who have fled the years' long conflict in Syria. The food typically provided by aid agencies for refugees is woefully lacking in both nutrition and calories. This month, we will join Church World Service in a Ration Challenge. The Mission Team challenges you to commit to eating for one week in August only the food provided to Syrian refugees. There are many ways you can participate in the Ration Challenge. First, you can pick up a ration food pack, located on the round tables in the sanctuary or in the church office, eating what is provided for one week. **The money you save can go toward our monthly mission.** Another option is to commit to eating the rations while soliciting sponsors to help raise funds. In this instance, the more money you raise, the more food you can add to your diet/challenges. A third option is to choose your own diet—especially if you have dietary restrictions. And finally, you could opt not to do the physical eating challenge, but instead give financially toward this monthly mission. \$225 per refugee per year through Church World Service supplements a Syrian refugee's rations. Our hope is that we can raise enough money this month to feed at least one family, if not two or three families. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. -The Mission Team

Blessing Pantry-is accessible during these hours - **Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm**. The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome – Blessing Pantry Needs- Toilet Paper, Diapers (size 2 & 6), Baby Wipes, Training Pants (size 3T-6T), Feminine Hygiene Products, Shampoo, Conditioner, Bar Soap, Hand Soap, Toothbrush and Toothpaste. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

Women’s Service Group-will meet on **Thursday, September 9, 2021**. We will be meeting at 1:00pm at the ABC Center located at 203 E First St, New Bremen. Renee Kohler, director of the ABC Center will take us on a tour and explain the services they offer. After the tour, we will have a short planning meeting at the center to end our day. We invite anyone who is interested to us for the tour. Questions, please contact Sally Dicke. All are Welcome!

Caring Conversations in Christian Ministry-Northwest Ohio Association’s Lay School of Religion fall class. During this class they will discuss Communication Tools: Active Listening, Importance of Body Language, Personal Presence. The first class will be held on September 7th (in person-if able) from 6:45pm-9:15pm at the Northwest Ohio Association Office, 416 Wentz Street, Tiffin OH. The next seven classes will be completed by Zoom. For more information on the class or how to register contact Rev. Becky or the church office.

Calendar-Week of August 15, 2021

Sunday	10:15am	Worship w/Blessing of the Backpacks-in person & via Facebook Live
	11:30am	Confirmation Meeting
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop Hours New Bremen Coffee Shop
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	12:30pm-4:30pm	Home Communion
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	12:30-4:30	Home Communion
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	12:30-4:30	Home Communion
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Afternoon	Office Closed

E-Giving @ St. Paul

3 Different Ways to Give

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org

Mobile App – We are working on a new App-more information to come.

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048

St. Paul New “Text to Give” #(# changed as of 10/9/19)

How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))

- For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
 - For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 space pantry (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

Once a text amount is sent:

Registration Link- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.

Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

Donation Confirm- Sent via text each time a donation is made.



Ice Cream Social

Ice Cream Social - August 22, 2021 immediately after church in the Assembly Room. The Mission Team is planning an ice cream social **with all donations** going to the Blessing Pantry. We will be serving homemade chocolate chip cookie ice cream sandwiches. If you know of someone that forgot to order please encourage them to come and enjoy the fellowship, we will have extras available. You can enjoy them with our church family in the Assembly Room after church or pick up your order to enjoy at home. There will be regular ice cream served for those that do not care for the sandwiches. Pick up time will be from 11:30 - 12:30 on August 22. Please help us in supporting the Blessing Pantry!

Thank you, The Mission Team **No Cost-DONATIONS ONLY! All Donations will benefit Blessing Pantry**