

August 16, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ Jesus, our Risen Savior and Friend!

With school starting for many of our children and youth this week, we are also looking toward fall ministry and mission opportunities for St. Paul Church.

Sunday School begins Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. Youth groups for all ages will take place beginning Wednesday, September 15. Splash (4th & 5th grade youth) will meet from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Junior High, Senior High and Confirmation will meet from 6:30-8:30. At 6:30 each Wednesday ALL the youth will share a meal together. More information about these programs will be coming soon.

Our Music Ministries are also gearing up for the fall. Jim Strang is the Music Director and Bell Choir Director. Tim Olt is the Chancel Choir Director. Cheyenne Olt is the Chancel Choir Accompanist and the Worship Song Leader/Accompanist. Enclosed in this worship packet is a letter from Jim Strang inviting you to prayerfully consider joining our Music Ministries.

At the August 10 Church Council meeting, council members accepted with deep regret the resignation of Dee Schroer as our Associate Pastor effective December 1. The Rev. Dan Busch will worship with us on Sunday, November 28. While he is with us, he will liturgically walk the congregation and Pastor Dee through the "farewell" process. That being said, Dee will remain a member of St. Paul Church and hopes to be well enough soon to worship with us on Sunday mornings.

You will notice in the included financials that we are down nearly \$9000 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 16, 2021

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00

Giving Income \$4,696.69. (weekly)

Endowment Transfers \$15,448.00(ytd)

Income \$183,720.46 (ytd)

Expenses \$192,477.23 (ytd)

Balance **(\$8,756.77)** (ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37

Income \$41,461.00 (ytd)

Endowment Income \$3,329.22(ytd)

Expenses \$37,344.49 (ytd)

Balance \$81,090.10 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20

Income \$18,662.00 (ytd)

Expenses \$11,750.78(ytd)

Balance \$13,161.42

BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15

Bless Pantry Inc. \$17,646.00(ytd)

Bless Pantry Ex. \$9,813.07(ytd)

BP Balance \$15,679.85

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00

Income \$231.00(weekly)

Income \$17,463.00 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$24.00(weekly)

Balance \$3,517.00(ytd)

August 5, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family,

I start by thanking you for your cards, your prayers, your thoughts, your texts, your messages: all the ways you have reached out to me over the past months.

With deep sorrow and regret, I am resigning as Associate Pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in New Bremen effective December 1, 2021 due to ongoing (and as of yet undiagnosed) medical issues. The date of December 1 was chosen to fulfill the 90-day resignation clause in my call agreement.

I loved serving as your pastor. Sharing my faith and growing alongside you brings me joy. Because St. Paul is my home church, I will continue to worship with you, to grow with you, to be part of our faith family for years to come.

This decision was very difficult, but necessary for both me and the congregation to move forward.

Thank you for placing your trust in me. Thank you for your loving support as I answered the call to ministry. Thank you for your prayers in the coming weeks and months.

Blessings and Peace,



Dee Schroer

AUGUST 22, 2021
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking  faith
home

People respond differently to Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 6:56-71	Many disciples desert Jesus
Monday	Joshua 24:1-18	Many tribes renew the covenant
Tuesday	Ephesians 6:10-20	The whole armor of God
Wednesday	Matthew 16:1-12	Pharisees and Sadducees test Jesus
Thursday	Luke 7:1-10	Jesus heals an army officer's servant
Friday	John 3:1-21	Jesus and Nicodemus
Saturday	Psalms 34:15-22	The Lord is with you
Sunday	Mark 7:1-23	Authentic faith

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Simon Peter answered [Jesus], "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:68-69 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, give us faith to trust in you that we may overcome disbelief with faith, fear with hope, and indifference with love through Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may we humbly receive this food with thanksgiving, believing that all good things come from you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the one who redeems your life give you peace and joy.



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AUGUST 22, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Gather Us In

taking  faith
home

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:

- In an era of deliberate misinformation, what is something you hold on to without wavering?
- What is something you have heard that is hard to believe?
- What does it mean to you that Peter said that Jesus is the Holy One of God?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 6:56-71.

It is difficult to have a conversation about Jesus without a strong reaction. Many of these reactions are experienced in our text from John 6. Some people hear the news of Jesus as the bread of life and complain that the message is difficult or offensive. Others simply experience disbelief. Some reject the message of Jesus and others actively pursue a path of betrayal. In the midst all of these naysayers, Peter states words the church has sung throughout its history: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God" (vv. 68-69). If truth be told, we have likely found ourselves in most—if not all—of those various groups. Such is the humble and challenging life of faith. At different moments of our lives, we, too, respond differently to the message and the presence of Jesus in our lives. When have you or someone you know sounded like a naysayer to Jesus as the Holy One of God? What moves us from disbelief to hope and from rejection to trust?

Pray: Dear God, give us hearts of love and faith that dare to trust that Jesus is the bread of life, the Holy One of God, who brings to us the words of eternal life. Amen.

SERVICE

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:18, "Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication." Supplication means to pray for God's help. We can serve others by praying for them. Is there someone you know who is in need of God's help? How can you pray for them this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

We wear a seat belt in the car and a helmet when riding a bike to protect us from something bad happening. Ephesians 6:10-17 tells us that God helps protect us. The whole armor of God provides truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation. The sword is the word of God. Draw a picture of a sword, color it, and cut it out. Use the sword as a bookmark in your Bible and as a reminder of the importance of God's word each time you read scripture.



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

LISTEN TO
YOUR
INTUITION

SARAHPROUT.COM

LOVE
YOURSELF

practice
Gratitude

Living
intentionally
*bringing passion
and purpose to life*

joy.

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 22, 2021

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Jennifer Snider

Cheyenne Olt

Jan Holcomb

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Guest Speaker

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

(from Iona Abbey Worship Book; Wild Goose Publications; 2001)

Leader: Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time:

People: Be with us in this time.

Leader: Saviour of the world, healer of the nations:

People: Be with us in this place.

Leader: Breath of all that lives, of people near and far:

People: Stir within our lives.

Leader: Maker-Spirit-Son, God of here and now:

People: Be present in our worship, that we may find new ways to be present in your world. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *All Creatures of Our God and King* verses 1, 3, 5

23 All Creatures of Our God and King

D Bm Em7 Asus A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A7}{E}$ D Bm Em7

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
 2 O rush-ing wind that art so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven a -
 3 O flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 All you who are of ten - der heart, for - giv - ing oth - ers, take your
 5 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor-ship him in hum-ble-

Asus A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G D Bm $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D E A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ D Bm7 $\frac{A7}{E}$ D $\frac{G}{B}$

sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! O burn - ing sun with gold - en
 long, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! O ris - ing morn in praise re -
 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! O fire so mas - ter - ful and
 part, sing prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! All you who pain and sor - row
 ness, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the

Asus A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A7}{E}$ D $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{Dmaj7}{A}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G6 $\frac{A}{G}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Em7 $\frac{D}{F\#}$

beam, and sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise him, O
 joice, O lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O praise him, O
 bright, pro - vid - ing us with warmth and light, O praise him, O
 bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O praise him, O
 Son, and praise the Spir - it, Three in One, O praise him, O

G6 A7 Bm $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D6 E A Bm7 $\frac{F\#m}{C\#}$ D Em $\frac{A}{C\#}$ $\frac{B7}{D\#}$ Em $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{Em7}{G}$ A A7 D

praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.
 MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1623; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 L.M. Alleluias

INVOCATION (in unison)

God of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, we find ourselves in this moment and place on holy ground, for you are in our midst. Grant that we might turn away from all that distracts us and center our attention on you. Enable us once more to hear your call above the noisiness of our lives. We come this day to worship and are overwhelmed by the beauty of your presence. Be who you will be for us, that we might once again become your holy people through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in glory everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

734

Glory Be to the Father

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of three systems of music. The first system covers the lyrics 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the'. The second system covers 'Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is'. The third system covers 'now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.' The score includes a variety of chords such as Eb, Bb7sus, Bb7, F, Bb, Bb/D, Bb, Eb, Bb/D, Eb6, Bb/F, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Bb7, Eb, Bb, Ab, Eb, G, Fm7/Ab, Eb/Bb, Gm/Bb, Bb7, and Eb. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, and the piano accompaniment is shown on a grand staff.

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

GREATOREX
Irregular

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

I have a riddle for you. What am I? I can hide or I can show myself. I am made up of many muscles. I am usually always wet. I can hurt people or help people. I can be curled. I help people taste food. I am usually pink. Any ideas? (A Tongue!)

God created each one of us with a tongue. A tongue is an important part of our body. Our tongue helps us to eat our food and speak. When used to speak, our tongues are very powerful.

This is the third week we are focusing on the Book of Proverbs.

Proverbs has a lot to say about tongues:

Proverbs 16:24 “Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.”

Proverbs 10:11a “The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life”

Proverbs 12:18b “The tongue of the wise brings healing.”

And here is an important one: Proverbs 18:21. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue. And those who love it will eat its fruit.”

We don't need a Proverb to remind us to use our words with care. Far too often we speak before we THINK and we hurt others with our unkind and vicious words. At ALL times, we are called to speak the truth with love, to show kindness to others and to offer words of healing.

This week I challenge you to think before you speak—especially if you are angry, hurting or in a hurry. Place kindness upon your lips and watch those around you respond with love.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: The bounty of God's Love.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Martha Plattner, 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. God, you have called us out of darkness and into the glorious light of your Son. We pray for those who live in darkness and do not know your Light.

We lift up to you nations, neighborhoods, and households who are at war with one another. We pray for peace among all your children.

Today we pray for those who are lonely and destitute, for victims of injustice and discrimination, for those who are unloved and forgotten. Lord, hear our prayer.

We lift up to you, O God, those who are sick in body, mind and spirit. We pray for those who are hungry and homeless. We pray for all who are

dying and those who are bereaved. May we offer your healing light upon each.

We lift up to you, Gentle Jesus, the prayers that are upon our hearts. Hear us. Heal us. Move us to offer you our praises. SILENCE

Loving God, hear our prayers and guide our thoughts and actions, so that your will may be done and your name glorified through your Son 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

Josie Bornhorst

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Proverbs 15:1-33

(NSRV)

*A soft answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

*² The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge,
but the mouths of fools pour out folly.*

*³ The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
keeping watch on the evil and the good.*

*⁴ A gentle tongue is a tree of life,
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*

*⁵ A fool despises a parent's instruction,
but the one who heeds admonition is prudent.*

*⁶ In the house of the righteous there is much treasure,
but trouble befalls the income of the wicked.*

*⁷ The lips of the wise spread knowledge;
not so the minds of fools.*

*⁸ The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,
but the prayer of the upright is his delight.*

*⁹ The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,
but he loves the one who pursues righteousness.*

*¹⁰ There is severe discipline for one who forsakes the way,
but one who hates a rebuke will die.*

*11 Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD,
how much more human hearts!*

*12 Scoffers do not like to be rebuked;
they will not go to the wise.*

*13 A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance,
but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken.*

*14 The mind of one who has understanding seeks knowledge,
but the mouths of fools feed on folly.*

*15 All the days of the poor are hard,
but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.*

*16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD
than great treasure and trouble with it.*

*17 Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is
than a fatted ox and hatred with it.*

*18 Those who are hot-tempered stir up strife,
but those who are slow to anger calm contention.*

*19 The way of the lazy is overgrown with thorns,
but the path of the upright is a level highway.*

*20 A wise child makes a glad father,
but the foolish despise their mothers.*

*21 Folly is a joy to one who has no sense,
but a person of understanding walks straight ahead.*

*22 Without counsel, plans go wrong,
but with many advisers they succeed.*

*23 To make an apt answer is a joy to anyone,
and a word in season, how good it is!*

*24 For the wise the path of life leads upward,
in order to avoid Sheol below.*

*25 The LORD tears down the house of the proud,
but maintains the widow's boundaries.*

*26 Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD,
but gracious words are pure.*

*27 Those who are greedy for unjust gain make trouble for their
households,
but those who hate bribes will live.*

28 The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer,

but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil.

*²⁹ The LORD is far from the wicked,
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.*

*³⁰ The light of the eyes rejoices the heart,
and good news refreshes the body.*

*³¹ The ear that heeds wholesome admonition
will lodge among the wise.*

*³² Those who ignore instruction despise themselves,
but those who heed admonition gain understanding.*

*³³ The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom,
and humility goes before honor.*

RESPONSE

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

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

MEDITATION

Jennifer Snider

“In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity” Sun Tzu

Without a doubt, the world was in the midst of chaos during the spring of 2020. With all the uncertainty in the outside world, I realized things within me needed to change immediately. The truth is things needed to change for a longtime, but I didn't know how or where to start. I don't know what day it was last spring, but it was one of the most stressful days that I decided to spend my lunch hour in a way I'd never done before. I sat on the floor, focused on taking deep breaths, and found a calm space within myself. It's been close to a year and a half since that day. I've learned a lot about myself since then and have a new perspective on how I want to live my life. I am not here to tell you I have it all figured it. I definitely don't have it all figured out and probably never will. The reason I am here today is to share some of the lessons I have learned and how these lessons can be used to deepen our faith.

Listen to your intuition

I've always been aware of my intuition which can be described by some as a gut feeling, your conscience, or even God. It doesn't matter what you call it but listen to the internal message and what it's saying.

Sometimes the message is a warning of something not being right or a guilty conscience when we gossip. Other times the message is nudging us to do something good, like helping someone in need or taking a certain action for a better future. It's non-negotiable, really. Too often we ignore this voice that is either trying to keep us safe or telling us how we can do and become better humans. Listening to our intuition is non-negotiable.

Love yourself

We hear this all the time, but I didn't know what that meant until recently. How could I love myself when I act like a jerk so much of the time? I've learned that to love yourself means to forgive yourself for not being perfect. Love yourself as much as you love anyone else close to you. Don't compare yourself to others. They say "Comparison is the thief of joy", and joy is the feeling or expression of happiness. Only you can make you happy. YOU are responsible for your own happiness not anyone else. Self-love and self-worth come from within. As simple as it sounds, it can be hard. Our social conditioning starts almost immediately in life. We feel we aren't enough. Those words play over and over in our minds for hours a day and days lead to years. But this is false news! You are enough and more. Don't let the egos and insecurities of others decide your worth. We need to love and take care of ourselves as much as we love and take care of others. This is not a selfish act but a necessity to live a better life and for the world to be a better place.

Slowdown and practice stillness

One way I learned to appreciate and love myself more was by sitting quietly outside and thinking of all the goodness I want to bring to this world in this place and time such as: love, light, healing, forgiveness, peace, calm, understanding. I would repeat this over and over in my head. Then I would think of everyone I knew who needed good thoughts. Then my thoughts would shift to all the people in the world who were suffering in so many ways and send good thoughts to those people. When I was able to sit still and focus on all the good that I want to offer to myself and others, it allowed me to realize and appreciate the best aspects of myself. I have later learned this is called Loving Kindness meditation. It is life changing!

Live in the Present

Another reward to slowing down and being still is the ability to live in the present moment. So much of the time we are regretfully looking back at the past or worrying about the future – wasting our time creating stories and fear over things that may never happen. How often do we focus on the present moment – the moment in which we are supposed to be living in? When we aren't focused on what is happening right now we miss out on so many wonderful moments. We also miss out on our connection to the people around us, to our connection with God, and those amazing God Winks (which are described as “an event or personal experience, often identified as coincidence, so astonishing that it is seen as a sign of divine intervention, especially when perceived as the answer to prayer).

Practice Gratitude

One way to live in the present is to practice gratitude. When we express gratitude for something happening in the present, it brings our awareness to the exact thing we are doing at that very moment. It can be as simple as telling yourself how grateful you are for the stranger who just looked at you and smiled, the delicious meal you are eating, or taking note and expressing gratitude for the gorgeous sunrise you took time to notice on a particularly busy morning. I'm not talking about spinning every negative or tragic experience into a positive one as that is called toxic positivity. Being grateful is simply about taking notice when things are good and enjoyable even if it's only for a moment.

Do Things That Make You Happy

I talk to too many people who are always busy and have never ending to do lists. What people really need to have is a to-don't list! Don't spend your days, weeks, and years going non-stop from this thing to that as if life is a never-ending chore you despise. Make time for your hobbies and passions. If you enjoy singing, but people say you are tone deaf, sing anyway. If you love to paint, do it! Volunteer, join a club of interest, or send a card of encouragement to someone - even if it's a complete stranger. We don't need to go out and buy things to find fulfilment or purpose. We DON'T need to impress others with our talents. We DO need to enjoy the time we have on this earth. I once saw a quote that said

something like “You don’t have to know your life’s purpose to bring purpose to your life”. So do the things that spark joy and bring fulfillment to your everyday life.

Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life

These changes in mindset have led me to quit my corporate job to focus on a career in the fitness and wellness industries. My career as a technical writer paid well, but it lacked meaning and purpose for me. Over the past few months, I started to realize that my salary was the absolute only thing keeping me in a position that was making me unhappier and less fulfilled by the day. Sure, I had moments of gratitude for everything the job afforded. But money was no longer the thing that was of highest importance to me. I want to spend my days doing things I love while helping others become healthier and happier.

Take Time to Connect and Listen

On the last day at my corporate job, I ran an errand in town and decided to get gas while I was out. When I pulled up to the gas station the man on the other side of the pump somewhat resembled someone I know. I popped my head around the pump to say “hi” but quickly realized I didn’t know who the man was. Then I apologized to him for thinking he was someone else. As we pumped gas the man started talking to me. He told me how he’d recently retired and now had lots of time for the “Honey Do List” as well as his grandchildren. It made me smile as I could tell how happy he felt and could see the similarities in our lives; even though I am a long way from retiring, I felt relieved to finally have the opportunity to spend my days how I choose. Anyway, he told me that he loves to fish as we both stood there pumping our gas with the gas pump blocking our view of one another. Then he told me how he loves to deer hunt. Now, any other time I would immediately interrupt and make it known that I do not like hunting and am a vegetarian. But that day I just listened. He said “it doesn’t matter if I get a deer”. He further explained himself by describing the peacefulness that comes with sitting up in the treestand all alone surrounded by nature, witnessing the beautiful sunrises, receiving visits from curious squirrels, and taking notice of the birds that fly up and perch beside him. As we finished filling our tanks, he stepped out from

behind the gas pump, looked me in the eyes, and said “And that’s when I talk to the good Lord”. That man was and still is a complete stranger, but for some reason that day he decided to share some of his own life wisdom. You could say his message was a God Wink sent to assure me that I am on the right path.

The Final Lesson

Life is meant to be lived through acts of love and service. That starts with loving ourselves, slowing down, listening to our inner voice to live more intentionally, and joyfully even in difficult times. And when we learn to do these things we connect to the place of deeper wisdom found within – the place where God is still speaking.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING SENTENCES: Today we hear these words of wisdom from 2 Corinthians 9:7b-8—*God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.* Friends, let us give joyfully and generously of our abundance.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34

G D Em Bm Em D G D Em C G D

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

Em D/F# G D G/B C F#dim/A G Em D Am G/B D7 G

praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

God, we present these offerings that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries in the days ahead that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING *Come, All Christians, Be Committed* 459 *Come, All Christians, Be Committed*

F Gm F Bb Gm F Bb Bb C Bb Gm7

1 Come, all Chris-tians, be com - mit - ted to the ser - vice of the
2 Of your time and tal - ents give now, they are gifts from God a -
3 Come in praise and ad - o - ra - tion, all who on Christ's name be -

F C7 F F A Gm Dm Dm7 Gm7 Am Bb Bb6

Lord; make your lives for him more fit - ted, tune your hearts with one ac -
bove, to be used by Chris-tians free - ly to pro - claim his won - drous
lieve; wor - ship him with con - se - cra - tion, grace and love will you re -

F Dm C F C Bb C F Dm Am Dm Gm7

cord. Come in - to his courts with glad - ness, all your sa - cred vows re -
love. Come a - gain to serve the Sav - ior, tithes and of - ferings with you
ceive. For his grace give Christ the glo - ry, for the Spir - it and the

Bb Dm C7 F F Dm Gm Dm Gm7 Am7 Bb Gm7 F

new, turn a - way from sin and sad - ness, be trans - formed with life a - new.
bring; in your work, with Christ find fa - vor, and with joy his prais - es sing.
Word, and re - peat the gos - pel sto - ry un - til all his name have heard.

WORDS: Eva B. Lloyd (1912-), alt.
MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. James H. Wood (1921-)
Words © 1966 Broadman Press (Admin. Genevox Music Group)
Music Arr. © 1958, Ren. 1986 Broadman Press (Admin. Genevox Music Group)

BEACH SPRING
8.7.8.7.D.

BENEDICTION: The grace of God, deeper than our imagination; the strength of Christ, stronger than our need; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, richer than our togetherness; guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

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

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

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

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

Chords: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7, F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C, Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C, Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F

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 George and Lodema Knost by Jayne Knost.

Attendance-Daily Devotions-65, August 8-Sunday Worship Online-280, In Person-49.

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!



Ice Cream Social

Ice Cream Social - August 22, 2021 immediately after church in the assembly room. Sponsored by The Mission Team, **with all donations** going to the Blessing Pantry. We will be serving homemade chocolate chip cookie ice cream sandwiches and there will be regular ice cream served for those that do not care for the sandwiches. Please come and enjoy the fellowship. If you pre-ordered, you can enjoy them with our church family in the assembly room after church or pick up your order to enjoy at home. Pick up/serving time will be from 11:30 - 12:30. Please help us in supporting the Blessing Pantry! Thank you, The Mission Team
No Cost-DONATIONS ONLY! All Donations will benefit Blessing Pantry

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 N, 1 & 6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Training Pants (size 3T-6T), Baby Lotion, Baby Shampoo, Feminine Hygiene Products, Men’s Deodorant, Shampoo, Kid’s Body Wash, Cotton Balls, Bandages, Shaving Cream and Garbage Bags. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

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 by 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

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 22, 2021

Sunday	10:15am	Worship in person & via Facebook Live
	11:30am-12:30pm	Ice Cream Social
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
	6:30pm	Discipleship Team
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	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

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.