August 23, 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 (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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 should arrive in your mailbox this week.

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. In last week's worship packet was a letter from Jim Strang inviting you to prayerfully consider joining our Music Ministries.

Despite all of the upcoming programs, you need to know this. Your staff are on overload with tasks gearing up for the fall season, ongoing pastoral care crises, and pandemic-related ministry. For example, there is no sermon or children's moment in today's packet. Pastor Becky simply has been unable to meet this printing deadline.

We are soliciting your help. We need volunteers to lead Daily Devotions. We need volunteers to greet people online during worship streaming services. We need volunteers to reach out to our many folk who are homebound or recuperating. Please contact Pastor Becky through the church office if you are able to assist in any of these areas.

The physical and mental health of your church staff has been massively compromised this past year. Difficult decisions are currently being made to determine what programs are essential and which can be set aside for the time being. We thank you for your understanding.

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

Roberts Dectar Myn Hannkutt Becly Elb S

Roland Dicke Council President Myra Hanenkratt Council VP Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of Aug 23, 2021

**Operating Fund** 

Beg. Balance \$0.00

Giving Income \$3,889.02 (weekly)

Endowment Transfers \$15,448.00(ytd)

Income \$187,609.48(ytd)

Expenses \$194,427.79(ytd)

Balance (\$6,818.31) (ytd)

**Building Maint & Property Care** 

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37 Income \$41,684.50 (ytd)

Endowment Income \$3,329.22(vtd)

Expenses \$37,358.48 (ytd)

Balance \$81,299.61 (ytd)

**Local Aid** 

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20 Income \$18,926.00 (ytd)

Expenses \$11,856.73(ytd)

Balance \$13,319.47

BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15

Bless Pantry Inc. \$18,071.00(ytd)

Bless Pantry Ex. \$9,847.30(ytd)

BP Balance \$16,104.85

**Our Church Wider Mission** 

Pledge \$25,000.00

Income \$483.50(weekly)

Income \$17,946.50 (ytd)

**Project of the Year** 

Income \$745.00(weekly)

Balance \$4,262.00(ytd)



Maintaining the heart of our Christian faith.

#### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	Mark 7:1-23	Authentic faith
Monday	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	God commands obedience
Tuesday	James 1:17-27	Hearing and doing the word
Wednesday	2 Timothy 3:6-16	A good minister of Jesus Christ
Thursday	Galatians 5:22-26	The fruit of the Spirit
Friday	Romans 1:8-15	Prayer for thanksgiving
Saturday	Psalm 15	Who shall abide with God?
Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. James 1:27 (NRSV)

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to act in ways that show your love for us and our love for you and all people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Loving God, we thank you for this food and pray that all may have food to eat, a roof over their heads, and security for their daily lives. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God's justice and mercy set you free to love and serve others through Christ Jesus our Lord.



# AUGUST 29, 2021 HYMN OF THE WEEK Great Is Thy Faithfulness



#### **WEEKLY MILESTONES**



#### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**



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

- Think or talk about a time when you or someone you know said you would do one thing but then did the total opposite.
- How do you feel about someone who tells you something about themselves that is not true?
- What does it mean to you that Peter said that Jesus is the Holy One of God?

#### **DEVOTIONS**



Read: Mark 7:1-23.

We may be more like the Pharisees and scribes than we would like to admit. They wanted to protect God's teachings and honor God's word with their whole life. They set up all kinds of pious actions like hand washing to represent this singular attention. Jesus called them hypocrites for some of these practices. In the process of valuing and protecting God's importance in our lives, it is possible for us to miss the heart of it all. The Book of James reminds us to keep it simple: care for those in need and keep oneself "unstained by the world" (James 1:27). Even our best efforts at keeping pure will fall short. Jesus reminds us all of our hypocrisy that needs cleansing and forgiveness. The heart of the Christian faith is Christ's grace that places us all in the same need of forgiveness. That, in turn, sets us free to care for others instead of condemning them. In your heart of hearts, what is something that you do that is inconsistent with what you think is right or best?

*Pray:* Almighty God, help us to repent of anything that turns our hearts from loving you and caring for our neighbor. In Christ Jesus we pray, amen.

#### **SERVICE**



James tells us to be doers of God's word. In Jesus' time that included caring for orphans and widows. Who are the people that need your help today? School has either started or will start soon. Be aware of those who feel alone and may need a friend. How can you be a doer and not just a hearer of God's word?

#### **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



Sometimes our doing gets in the way of our being. We can miss the joy of daily life while working to save up time and money to enjoy life. It is true of our faith life as well. We can faithfully attend Christian worship and forget to daily pay attention to Christ's love that sets us free. Take time this week to sit in silence and imagine your loving Savior standing in front of you. End by praying: **Thank you, God, for \_\_\_\_\_\_.** 



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



# Raising Men/Women Lawn Care Service Founder – Rodney Smith Jr.



















#### St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street
New Bremen, Ohio 45869
Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)
Email <a href="mailto:stpaulnb@nktelco.net">stpaulnb@gmail.com</a>
Visit our website at <a href="mailto:https://stpaulnb.org">https://stpaulnb.org</a>
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

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

Roland Dicke-Council President

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 29, 2021 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

### **Worship Leaders**

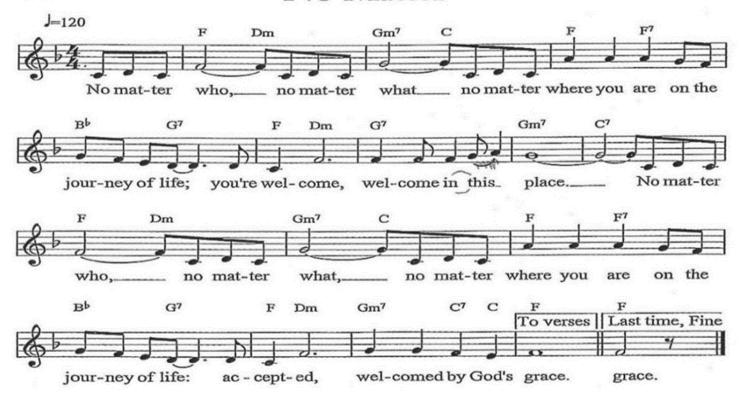
Ministers Rev. Becky Erb Strang Cheyenne Olt Kay Webb The Congregation Senior Pastor Accompanist/Vocalist Liturgist

#### **PRELUDE**

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### No Matter



## CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 95)

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

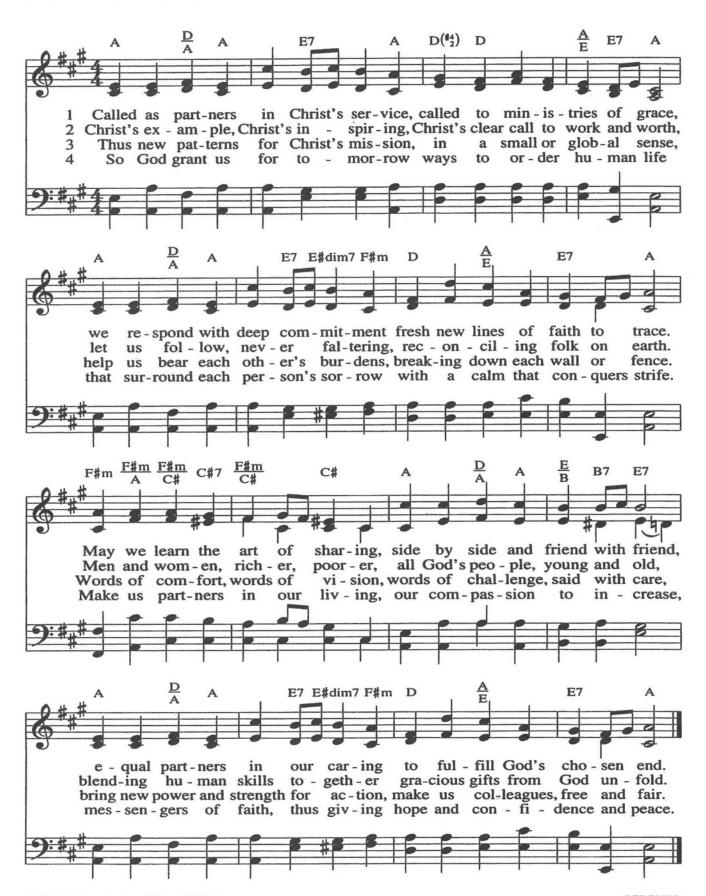
Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

People: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Leader: Let us worship God!!!!

HYMN OF PRAISE Called as Partners in Christ's Service verses 1 & 4

# 581 Called as Partners in Christ's Service



### PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Living God, we seek your presence now. Our minds cannot understand you, yet our hearts cry out for a living relationship with you. Our eyes cannot see you, yet without you there would be nothing to see. Our faith cannot grasp you, yet in you we live and move and have our being. Our way ahead into this week is hidden from us, but we trust that you have prepared a way through for us. Renew our vision of eternal truths in the light of which our day-to-day lives must be lived. Open our eyes to see your presence in the simple glories of everyday things. Light up our relationships with other people by the living word of love in Jesus. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI 734 Glory Be to the Father
Glory Be to the Father



### PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys: Birth Candle** welcomes Bowen Thomas Keller. Born on August 5, 2021, Bowen is the son of LeAnn (Topp) and Todd Keller and grandson of Gene and Ellen Topp. Welcome Bowen!!

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Dale Quellhorst (JTDMH), Denise Joyce (UVMC), Rhonda Bowlby (JTDMH), Martha Plattner, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Levi Bushman, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

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

Holy and Gracious God, we thank you that you have brought us together as the Body of Christ—in person and online. For whether we are gathered or scattered, we find our unity in you. Lead us into such unity of purpose that we may receive the power that comes from the Holy Spirit: power that comes not in the form of violence and destruction, but power that comes through reconciliation, healing and hope. SILENCE

Gentle God, we live in a modern Babel where words are used to conceal meaning rather than make it plain. Lead the peoples of the world into such a love of truth that nation may speak with nation, not seeking to confuse but to understand and be understood. Help, we pray, nations to build trust in such a way that a truly international community may be born. SILENCE

Creator God you give to each of us the capacity to dream dreams and to see visions, but because we exalt ourselves and our desires to the place that is yours alone, our visions are visions of horror and our dreams have become nightmares. Raise up artists and prophets among us with the will and the ability to inspire and cleanse our society, to set hearts aflame and turn our spirits to your heights. SILENCE

Comforting God, we pray for the lonely, the sick, the sad, the bereaved and all who suffer or are ill at ease. We claim for them the gift of your peace, that their troubled hearts may be set at rest and their fears banished. SILENCE

Listening God, we do not know how to pray as we ought, yet we know that your Spirit intercedes for us, offering us the gift of prayer. Hear us now as we lift up to you that which is upon our hearts. We also ask you to silence our busy minds that we might hear your still-speaking voice for us this day. SILENCE

Thank you, O God! We thank you for hearing our prayers, for granting us this day we have been given to praise your name and for coming to us in Jesus. It is his prayer we pray together.

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

Allie Bornhorst

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Proverbs 21:1-31 (The Message)

Good leadership is a channel of water controlled by God;

he directs it to whatever ends he chooses.

<sup>2</sup> We justify our actions by appearances;

God examines our motives.

<sup>3</sup> Clean living before God and justice with our neighbors mean far more to God than religious performance.

<sup>4</sup> Arrogance and pride—distinguishing marks in the wicked—are just plain sin.

<sup>5</sup> Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run;

hurry and scurry puts you further behind.

<sup>6</sup> Make it to the top by lying and cheating;

get paid with smoke and a promotion—to death!

<sup>7</sup> The wicked get buried alive by their loot

because they refuse to use it to help others.

<sup>8</sup> Mixed motives twist life into tangles;

pure motives take you straight down the road.

<sup>9</sup> Better to live alone in a tumbledown shack

than share a mansion with a nagging spouse.

<sup>10</sup> Wicked souls love to make trouble;

they feel nothing for friends and neighbors.

<sup>11</sup> Simpletons only learn the hard way,

but the wise learn by listening.

<sup>12</sup> A God-loyal person will see right through the wicked and undo the evil they've planned.

<sup>13</sup> If you stop your ears to the cries of the poor, your cries will go unheard, unanswered.

<sup>14</sup> A quietly given gift soothes an irritable person;

a heartfelt present cools a hot temper.

<sup>15</sup> Good people celebrate when justice triumphs,

but for the workers of evil it's a bad day.

<sup>16</sup> Whoever wanders off the straight and narrow ends up in a congregation of ghosts.

<sup>17</sup> You're addicted to thrills? What an empty life!

The pursuit of pleasure is never satisfied.

<sup>18</sup> What a bad person plots against the good, boomerangs; the plotter gets it in the end.

<sup>19</sup> Better to live in a tent in the wild

than with a cross and petulant spouse.

<sup>20</sup> Valuables are safe in a wise person's home;

fools put it all out for yard sales.

<sup>21</sup> Whoever goes hunting for what is right and kind finds life itself—glorious life!

<sup>22</sup> One sage entered a whole city of armed soldiers—their trusted defenses fell to pieces!

<sup>23</sup> Watch your words and hold your tongue;

you'll save yourself a lot of grief.

<sup>24</sup> You know their names—Brash, Impudent, Blasphemer—intemperate hotheads, every one.

<sup>25</sup> Lazy people finally die of hunger

because they won't get up and go to work.

<sup>26</sup> Sinners are always wanting what they don't have;

the God-loyal are always giving what they do have.

<sup>27</sup> Religious performance by the wicked stinks;

it's even worse when they use it to get ahead.

<sup>28</sup> A lying witness is unconvincing;

a person who speaks truth is respected.

<sup>29</sup> Unscrupulous people fake it a lot;

honest people are sure of their steps.

<sup>30</sup> Nothing clever, nothing conceived, nothing contrived, can get the better of God.

<sup>31</sup> Do your best, prepare for the worst—then trust God to bring victory.

#### **RESPONSE**

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

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

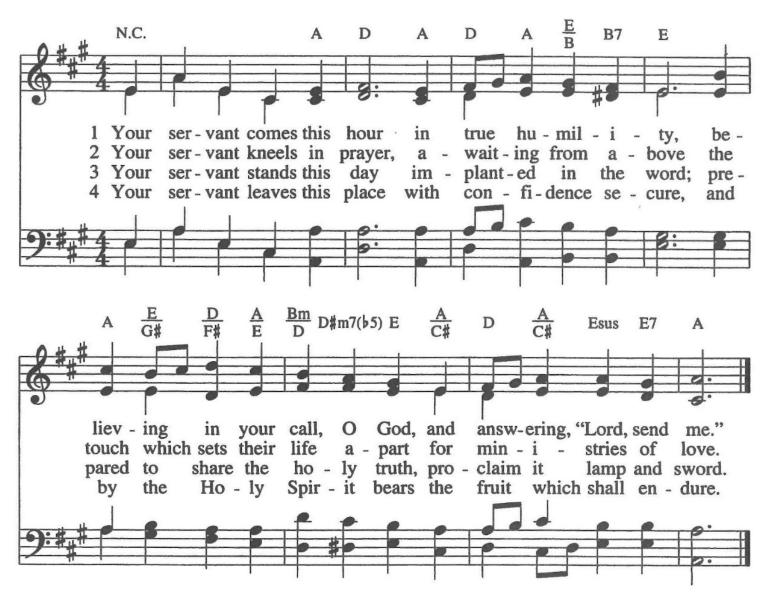
**SERMON** 

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

RESPONSIVE HYMN

Your Servant Comes This Hour

# Your Servant Comes This Hour 566



WORDS: Constance Cherry (1953-) MUSIC: William H. Walter (1825-1893) FESTAL SONG S.M.

#### WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING SENTENCES: Like the people of Israel long ago, the children of God long for freedom in every age. We long for freedom from injustice and brokenness; we long for freedom from everything that holds us back from God and the new life God promises. That is what the ministry of St. Paul is about: walking with God on our long journey, remembering God's goodness each step of the way, feeling God's presence with us. Let us give with a sense of humility and generosity. Amen.

**DOXOLOGY** 

# Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34



## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Loving God, the eyes of all look to you. Open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. Accept and bless our open and bountiful hands as we share with all your creation food for the hungry and drink for those who thirst. Amen.

# How Can I Keep from Singing? 4:



BENEDICTION: May we live the Mystery, and love the Mystery, and be caught up and hold secure in the Mystery, whose wisdom exceeds all human knowledge, whose ways surpass all understanding, whose blessing fulfills our every hope, now and forever. Amen.

#### BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Pass the Love

Pass the Love



PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**POSTLUDE** 

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Altar Flowers** are given in loving memory of Marta Hoelscher by Rev. & Mrs. Matt Dennings, Mr. & Mrs. Jon Dennings and families, Janet & Rex Katterheinrich, Anna L. Hoelscher.

**Attendance-**Daily Devotions-54, August 15-Sunday Worship Online-242, In Person-68.

**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 & September-Worship** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am. **Sunday School** begins September 12 and will be in person and via Facebook Live at 9:00am.

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!

**Our Music Ministries** are also gearing up for the fall. **Chancel Choir** will sing Sunday, September 12, 2021, Kickoff Sunday. Jim Strang is the Music Director and he invites you to prayerfully consider joining our Music Ministries. Questions? Please contact Jim.

**Youth groups** for all ages will take place beginning Wednesday, September 15. Splash (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Interested in providing a meal for our youth? Please contact Mimi Messick.

**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!

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

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 7<sup>th</sup> (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 29, 2021

Sunday	10:15am	Worship in person & via
Suriday	10.15am	• •
		Facebook Live
	11:15am	Sunday School/Youth Leader
		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
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Afternoon	Office Closed
Saturday	8:00am	Men's Group-Speedway Lanes

# 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.