

September 7, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of the Risen Christ! Together, we are called to Love God and Love our neighbors. We thank you for your faithfulness.

Yesterday was Kick-Off Sunday. Sunday School had a great start. The classes are using curriculum that mirrors our worship scriptures. Chancel Choir sang in worship. Youth groups begin on Wednesday. Your ongoing financial support, volunteering and prayers are a true gift to our congregation.

We do thank you for your financial support of St. Paul. Last week's deficit was reduced with your gifts. We are still down just under \$13,000. This deficit will be remedied with your ongoing generous giving AND with a one-time extra gift to our Operating Fund. St. Paul's Operating Fund keeps the lights on, pays for curriculum and programming, staff salaries and other utilities. Without these basics in place, we would be unable to Love God and Love Neighbor as well as we do.

Bell Choir is scheduled to play the first weekend of November. The Chancel Choir will sing in worship on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. If you would like more information about any of these music ministry opportunities, please contact Jim Strang, Music & Bell Director, or Tim Olt, Chancel Choir Director.

We are soliciting your assistance as we move into fall programming. We need more Tech Team volunteers. We need a volunteer or volunteers to lead Bible Study. We need volunteers to reach out to our many folk who are homebound or recuperating. Please contact Pastor Becky or Barb Holdren if you are able to assist in any of these areas.

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

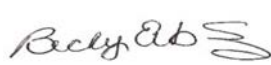
Blessings,



Roland Dicke
Council President



Myra Hanenkratt
Council VP



Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of September 7, 2021

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$6,885.69(weekly)
Endowment Transfers \$16,279.00(ytd)
Income \$197,935.60(ytd)
Expenses \$210,507.64(ytd)
Balance **(\$12,572.04)** (ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37
Income \$42,267.50(ytd)
Endowment Income \$4,006.67(ytd)
Expenses \$38,657.83 (ytd)
Balance \$81,260.71 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20
Income \$19,454.00 (ytd)
Expenses \$12,003.56(ytd)
Balance \$13,700.64
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15
Bless Pantry Inc. \$18,396.00(ytd)
Bless Pantry Ex. \$11,362.19(ytd)
BP Balance \$14,914.96

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$873.00(weekly)
Income \$19,115.50 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$120.00(weekly)
Balance \$4,382.00(ytd)



Binding of Isaac

September 19, 2021

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of radical love, you prevented Abraham from sacrificing his son for you. You showed him that you don't need sacrifice to love or be loved. Remind us that you love us that deeply, too. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

²[God] said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." (Genesis 22:2)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

God didn't need Abraham to sacrifice his son to appease God. God showed up for Abraham in a different way.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

How does this story make you feel? What do you think is the point of the story? When have you experienced life testing you beyond what you thought you could handle? Do you think God understood Abraham's grief when God lost Jesus to crucifixion?

For the littles: Tell of a time you trusted someone.



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless you when life tests you. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Give something to God this week that is difficult to give. (Angry outbursts, disposable income, time, control)



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.

Sunday, Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14, Binding of Isaac

Monday, Genesis 24:1-27, Choosing of Rebekah

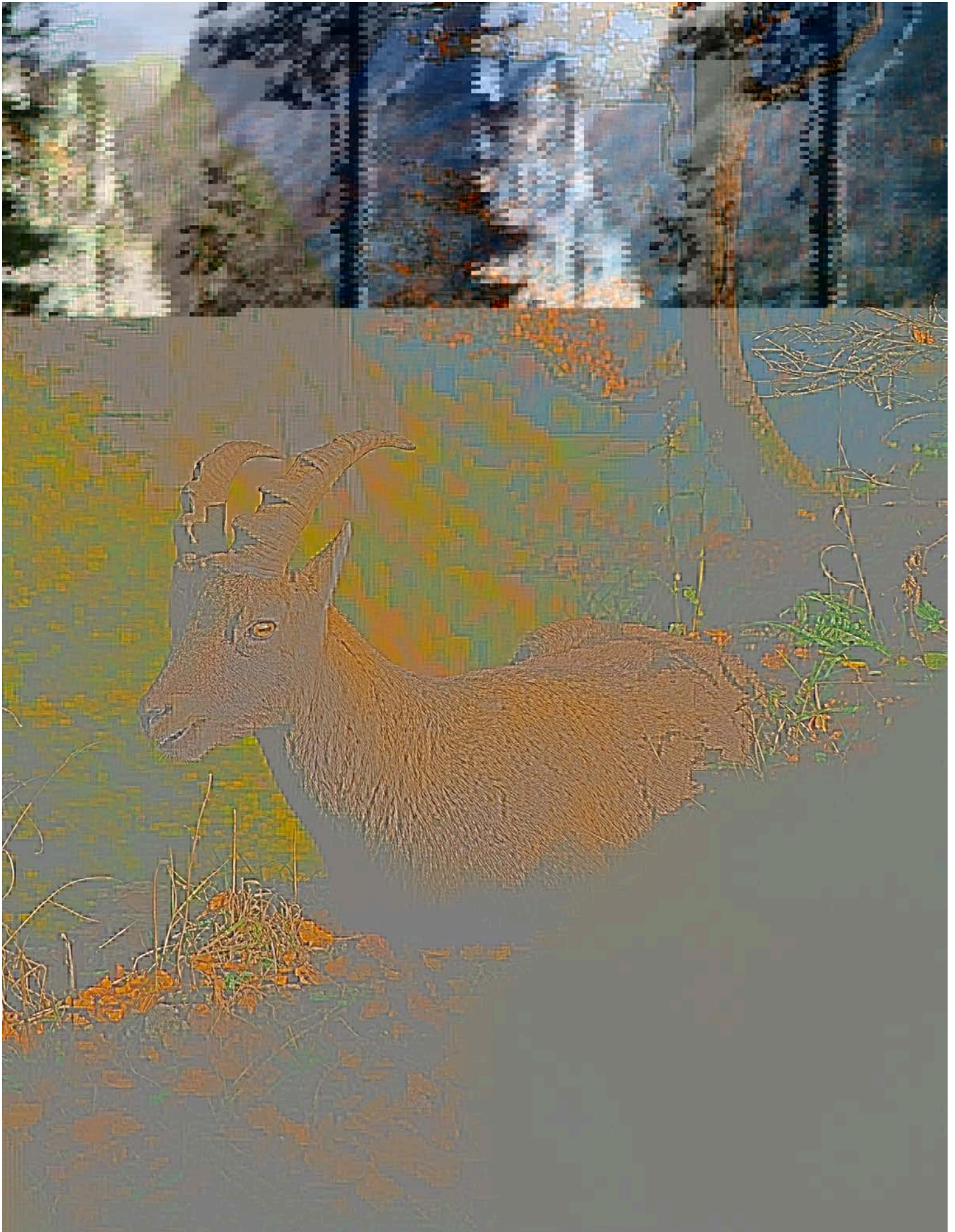
Tuesday, Genesis 24:28-49, Choosing of Rebekah

Wednesday, Genesis 24:50-67, Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

Thursday, Genesis 25:19-28, The Birth of Esau and Jacob

Friday, Genesis 25:29-34, Esau Sells His Birthright

Saturday, Genesis 26:1-33, Isaac and Abimelech



St. Paul United Church of Christ

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New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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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, welcome, one and all, to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

September 19, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Cheyenne Olt

Becky Quellhorst

Ragan Miller

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

Organist

Liturgist

Music Director

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

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple, with notes corresponding to the lyrics. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, with chords Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, C7. The third staff repeats the first line of the melody and lyrics, with chords F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords Bb, G7, F, Dm, Gm7, C7, C, F, F7. The lyrics are: "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." The final two measures are marked "To verses" and "Last time, Fine".

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God created all things.

People: We celebrate all that God created each time we worship—whether gathered or scattered.

Leader: We celebrate the radical love of our God

People: Who needs no sacrifice,

Leader: Who needs no blood spilled,

People: Who loves humanity—and all of creation—beyond imagination.

Leader: Let us worship God.

Jesus Loves Me

C G C F $\frac{F}{C}$ C

1 Je - sus loves me, this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so!
 2 Je - sus loves me, he who died heav-en's gate to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! He will stay close be - side me all the way;

C G C F C $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 C

Lit - tle ones to him be - long: they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 he's pre - pared a home for me, and some day his face I'll see.

Refrain
C F C $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ G

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

C F $\frac{C}{G}$ Am $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 C

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of radical love, you prevented Abraham from sacrificing his son for you. You showed him and each of us that you do not require sacrifice from us in order to be loved by you. Remind us that you love us beyond measure that we might share your love with others. 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 (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. 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.' Above the vocal line, various chords are indicated: Eb, Bb7sus/F, Bb7/F, Eb, Bb/D, Bb, Eb, Bb/D, Eb6, Bb/F, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Bb7, Eb 1/2 Eb, Bb/Ab, Eb/G, Fm7/Ab, Eb/Bb, Gm/Bb, Bb7, Eb.

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

GREATOREX
Irregular

TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US

Kindness. Cotton balls or rocks, which of these objects is soft? Which are hard? Our words and actions can be soft like a cotton ball and show kindness or they can be hard like a rock and hurt others.

The Bible tells us we are to be kind to one another. Ephesians 4:32—*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you.*

Soft/Kind words: *Thank you; please; I love you.*

Soft/Kind actions: sharing, helping, hugging.

If we were to toss these cotton balls as if they were words, they would not hurt us. God does not want us to throw hurtful words or actions at others like rocks. God wants us to be kind to each other.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Wonderful Anniversaries and Birthdays celebrated this week.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Donald Mohrman, Martha Plattner, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Scott Kuenning, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Leader: Let us pray. Holy God, we come before you in this sacred time to pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. SILENCE

We confess that we rarely have any idea what true sacrifice looks like. We give of our surplus when it is convenient, and hope that it is enough. Teach us to give with wide-open hearts that risk, rather than giving out of protective stinginess cloaked in a flimsy assurance of security. Faithful God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving creator, you do not ask that we sacrifice animals to appease you, but rather that we responsibly steward all the riches and resources of your creation. Forgive our missteps and help show us how we can be part of healing this beautiful, but wounded, planet. Faithful God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Holy One, there are many in this world who suffer from the threat of abuse and maltreatment by those more powerful than themselves. Shepherd them with your love; lead them to rescue; and use all of us to bring about a community in which harm to others is neither persistent nor tolerated. Faithful God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Healing God, your presence is a balm to those who suffer illness and those who long for wholeness. Feed them on your promises and surround them with your healing. We lift up to you those who are sick, those who are recuperating, those who are grieving deep loss in this time of sickness and death and fear. Faithful God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Grace-filled God, we give thanks to you for all your faithful children who have gone ahead of us to pave the way so that we might worship you without fear of persecution. Shine their light ever before us as we strive to continually follow you. Faithful God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, your word is life and your promises are real. Sustain us and use us as the living answers to our own prayers and the prayers of others. All of this we pray in the 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

Susannah Davis

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 21:1-3 (NRSV)

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ² Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 22:1-14 (NRSV)

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of

them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

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

I won't lie to you. I've been struggling with this sermon and these passages from Genesis. My sticking point is the story itself. The story of God promising a child to ancient Abraham and Sarah from whom a nation will form. Then, once that child arrives, God tests the father by sending him up the mountain to sacrifice his son. (And oddly enough, the text says "only son" when in fact Abraham had a son, Ishmael by his slave Hagar. And just prior to today's reading, Sarah becomes jealous of Hagar and Ishmael and demands that Abraham send them away). The more I researched this story, the more disturbed I became. This passage has been used for centuries to justify child abuse. Yes. Really.

So what could I possibly say today that would be even a semblance of good news?

First, let me say that this story of Abraham preparing to sacrifice his son is ancient. It probably predates Israel's own history. However, once the Hebrew nation, Israel, began to form, texts were included in the Hebrew testament about firstborn sons. In Exodus 22:29, we hear that God CAN require the sacrifice of a firstborn, but we also hear in Exodus 13:13 that God will provide for their redemption.

Death was never the goal. Life is.

But it is still a difficult story to swallow. Yet, this story is part of our sacred canon. We cannot ignore it. We must deal with it and work out how God is working through it, through Abraham and through each of us to be good news.

If we were to read this afternoon the chapters in Genesis leading up to this story, we would find a fuller account of what happened that fateful day on the mountainside. And to do this, you would need to begin with Genesis 12:1-3 which reads: *Now the Lord said to Abram (note here that his name has not yet been changed to Abraham), "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

In between Genesis 12 and Genesis 22 we have the story of Abram and Sarai (again, their names haven't changed yet) taking their nephew, Lot, and all their possessions, travelling to the land of Canaan. Eventually Abram and Lot part company, each going their own separate ways. We discover that Sarai, in her old age was barren, so Abram, as a man promised to be the father of a nation, conceives a child through his wife's slave, Hagar. In Genesis 17 and 18 the Lord came to Abraham and promised him that even in his extreme old age (he was 99 and Sarah similarly old) he and Sarah would bear a son and he would be named Isaac which means "he laughs" because Sarah laughed and laughed when she heard that, in her old age, she would bear a son.

This brings us to today's story that ties neatly with Genesis 12's promise by God again telling Abraham: *I will indeed bless you and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand*

that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies and by your offspring shall all nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.

Tied together like that, I wonder if that is perhaps the message, the good news for us today. That because of Abraham, we are a blessing to God, a blessing to one another, and a blessing to the world.

We rarely talk like that or think like that. Many, many years ago, I watched a parenting video that showed a family's bedtime ritual. As each child was tucked into bed, the parents sang a song that they had written to each child about how that child is a blessing in their lives and to the family. In other words, the last thing their children heard before they drifted off to sleep was how they are a blessing.

Now how cool is that?? In essence, that is what God did for Abraham. In the midst of sorrow, barrenness, and the threat of loss, God reminded Abraham that he was a blessing and would be a blessing for generations to come for EVERYONE on earth.

So I ask you today: when have you experienced such a blessing?

I can tell you the exact moment I felt overpowered by the gift of blessing. I was near the end of the European portion of my sabbatical in 2005, having spent the last two weeks with the Iona Community on the Island of Iona in far western Scotland. Getting to and from Iona is never easy: it involves ferry, bus rides across another island and yet another ferry.

We Iona Community folk were able to stick together on the first ferry and the bus-ride. But once we boarded the large and last ferry, things were chaotic. In the midst of stowing our luggage and finding seats amongst the other island tourists, our small groups were dispersed. Suddenly and unexpectedly alone, I went to the ship's cafeteria to have a light lunch. I found a seat nearby Angela, Angela's children Isaac and Rosanna, and Terese—the pediatrician from Northern Ireland who has spent most of her career doctoring in Africa.

After eating, I got up to go on-deck—to watch the waters, sea-gulls and occasional seals. Terese, Isaac, and Rosanna hugged me good-bye. Then, Angela hugged me, held me close, and whispered this blessing: “Cherish & cherish...And may all the love go with you.”

“Cherish & cherish...And may all the love go with you.” In that gentle blessing given by someone I will never see again, my life was transformed. I walked away from Angela with tears in my eyes—I had been blessed for that day AND for all of my days. In a split second, I knew that I, indeed, was truly blessed and that life is about how we bless one another.

Angela’s blessing shifted my sabbatical beyond what I was seeing and doing to the level of blessings—blessings given, blessings received; blessings that surround and undergird our lives.

How often is it that we truly take time to see life as a blessing? To see our friends and family as blessings? To know deep within the fibers of our being that we are blessed: blessed richly with love and grace and joy.

Now I’m not talking Polly-Anna happiness here. I’m not talking rosy glasses that shield our eyes from the injustices that threaten to hem us in. I’m not talking about ignoring the pandemic, the violence in our homes and neighborhoods, addiction, depression or anger. Blessings do **not** ignore life’s tragedies and sorrows. But blessings can transform them.

Somehow, blessings are communal. We are not blessed into individual vacuums of space. We know blessing by how we live together, love together, worship together and serve together. When we open ourselves to life in community, we are open to hearing blessings on the lips of others, to bless others with our own words, and to be blessings to one another. And through these blessings, we experience God’s blessing for each of us as beloved and precious children.

Blessings empower and encourage us. When we bless one another, the Holy Spirit fills the moment with the spark of eternity. When we are blessed, we cannot help to share that joy with others.

From the moment Angela blessed me, my life changed. Blessings are now to be found in London Tube stations, on the streets of New Orleans, on tiny islands in Scotland, in our own village, and in our hearts.

Or, to be more specific: I discovered blessings **less** in these locations AND MORE in the people I have met along the way.

It is almost uncanny the way even my dreams shifted after Angela’s blessing. In those early weeks of sabbatical, several times I had an incredibly frightening dream: In the dream, I was trapped all alone in a

small, dark attic—unable to find the door, find a light, or find my way out. Each time, I'd awaken to the sound of my own voice shouting out for help—the darkness and the aloneness were more than I could bear. After Angela's blessing, my dreams moved out of the dark attic and into community life. In the sixteen years since that moment, my dreams are not typically frightening. They are now centered on life together, life in community.

I suppose you could say that is my vision for how I live. I am passionate about finding ways to help others out of their attics of darkness and despair—to a place of community, a place of hope, a place where we repay blessings because we know that we are first loved by God—and forever loved by God.

So back to Abraham and Isaac. Here is another truth of the story. It is just a story. In all actuality, it probably never happened in a historical sense. But the core of truth is still embedded within: God seeks our loyalty and our trust. And, because of Abraham's absolute trust in God, we might all know God's blessing.

The blessing is yours: Cherish and cherish...And may all the love go with you...Now and forevermore. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: We hear these words in 2 Corinthians 9:7—*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* Friends—let us offer our resources, our time, our talents, our very lives to God whose love and grace fills our lives.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Faithful God, you have given us so much. You love us unconditionally. Accept these gifts that we return to you as signs of our love for you and for your creation. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Here I Am, Lord

559

Here I Am, Lord

Unison
G Am D7 C/G

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

G D G Em Am7 C

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them,
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,

Am D7/G D/F# D/C G Am/G D7/G

my hand will save. I who made the stars of night,
they turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,
my hand will save. Fin - est bread I will pro - vide

C/G G D G Em

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

WORDS: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-); para. Isaiah 6:8

MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-); arr. Michael Pope (20th c.), Daniel L. Schutte (1947-), John Weissrock (20th c.)

Words and Music © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music

Refrain

Am7 C Am G/B C6 *slowing* D D7 F#

light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I
 Word to them. Whom shall I send?
 life to them. Whom shall I send?

a tempo G Gsus G D7/A C/E D7 G

am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

Cmaj7 G Am G/B C6 D D/F# D

heard you call - ing in the night. I will

G Gsus G C/G G C/E D7 G

go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

Am7 C/D D G C/G G

hold your peo - ple in my heart.

BENEDICTION: Cherish and cherish...And may all the love go with you.
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 honor of Tom and Joyce Holdren's 65th wedding Anniversary by Mike & Barb, Brad & Linda, Tony & Lexa, Kelly & Sherry and Families.

Attendance-Daily Devotions-67, September 5-Sunday Worship Online-334, In Person-70.

Daily Devotions-Please join us, 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 September-Worship will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am. **Sunday School** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 9:00am.

Chancel Choir-will be singing Sunday, September 26. Rehearsal begins at 9:00am on the 26th. Please join them. All are welcome.

Open Table When: September 20, 2021
Who: Everyone
Where: St. Paul Assembly Room
Free Community Meal Serving: 4:00pm-6:00pm
Menu: Chicken Alfredo, House Salad, Green Beans,
Garlic Toast, Yummy Desserts

Carry-outs Available, Free Chair Massages
Prepared and Served by: The Women's Group of Holy Redeemer

Book Club-We are putting a new spin on Book Club. We will not be hosting formal Book Clubs as we have in the past, but still providing the books for you to read. If you'd like to get together with others who are reading the book to discuss, a sheet will be provided for you to put your name on when picking up the book, make contact with fellow readers and set a date to discuss. Septembers book is *Uncomfortable Conversations With A Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho. For anyone seeking to understand and eradicate racism, the book is filled with honest reflections and actionable conclusions. Books will be available on the table outside the church office.

Local Aid- September monthly mission. As the name implies, Local Aid helps individuals and families in our surrounding communities, meet the needs of daily life. Aid can come in the form of gas cards, rent money and other miscellaneous repairs and expenses that may occur. To give towards Local Aid, please mark your giving envelope accordingly or bring to the church office in an envelope labeled "Local Aid". Thank you! 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, Paper Towels, Diapers (size 4 & 6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Sanitary Napkins, Shampoo, Conditioner, Razors, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Dryer Sheets, Napkins, Paper Plates and Food Storage Bags. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

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!

2022 Council Postitions-2022 will be here before we know it and we are looking to fill several council positions. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of the following: **Jr. Elder, Jr. Deacon, Trustee (2 positions open)** Questions or willing to serve, please contact Roland Dicke or Myra Hanenkratt. Thank you!

Calendar-Week of September 19, 2021

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School in person & via Facebook Live
	10:15am	Worship in person & via Facebook Live
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop Hours- New Bremen Coffee Shop
	4:00pm-6:00pm	Open Table-Free Community Meal
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	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
	5:30pm-6:30pm	Splash (4 th & 5 th grade)
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm-8:30pm	Confirmation
	7:00pm-8:30pm	Jr/Sr High Youth
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	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)

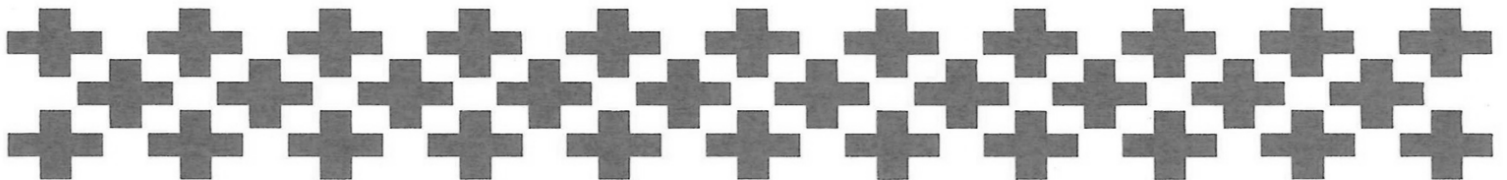
Once a text amount is sent:

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.

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
American Legion

Hall
6458 State Route 66
New Bremen

Monday, September 20
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: amlegnb to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



Get gameday ready with the Red Cross! Come to give Sept. 13-30
for a limited-edition college football T-shirt, while supplies last!



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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WARM WINTER COAT & GLOVES DRIVE

September 19 – October 30th



SHARE THE WARMTH

Accepting Donations of **NEW & GENTLY USED ADULT & CHILDRENS WINTER COATS & NEW WINTER WATER PROOF GLOVES.** Drop off Coats in the barrels (located in Sanctuary or outside church office) or to the Agape Client Services Building from 8 am – 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday beginning September 19. If dropping off at AGAPE THRIFT STORE, you must specify it is for the Warm Winter Coat Drive.



Sweet Potatoes/Yams Instant Box Potatoes & Stuffing
Pasta Salad Mixes Salad Dressing Egg Noodles Gravy Broth
Muffin/Dinner Roll Mixes Can Beef & Chicken Can Pumpkin
Brownie & Cake Mixes Fruit Pie Filling Jello Pudding

Drop off items to the Agape Ministries Client Services Building Monday thru Friday during the hours of 9 am to 4:30 pm