October 18, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

We offer you autumn greetings in the name of Jesus-our Savior and Friend!

On Wednesday evenings, supper is served to all youth (grades 4-12) and their adult leaders at 6:30 p.m. Mimi Messick coordinates volunteers to cook and deliver these meals to church. We typically serve around 30-40 folk. If you are able to volunteer to provide a meal, please contact the church office so we can give you Mimi's information.

October's Book Club book is David Gregory's Dinner with a Perfect Stranger. We are ordering copies of the book this morning. Instead of an in-person Book Club, we are encouraging readers to get together-possibly by email-for discussion. Books are on table outside of offices.

This packet is sent to approximately 500 households each week. Most of our recipients greatly appreciate the informationparticularly the worship bulletin that includes sermon and prayers and the weekly letter with financials. However, if you would like to no longer receive the packet, please email us at stpaulnb@nktelco.net or call the church office at 419-629-2502. The weekly bulletin, letter, and events calendar are available electronically on our website stpaulnb.org. You will not receive Council news and birthday/anniversary calendar if you elect to not receive the weekly mailing.

We thank you for your faithfulness to God displayed in your faithfulness to St. Paul Church during these uncertain times. Your prayers, your volunteer hours, and your generosity allows us to Love God & Love Neighbor extravagantly. Thank you!

Blessings,

Roland Dectar Myn Hannkutt Becky 265

Roland Dicke Council President

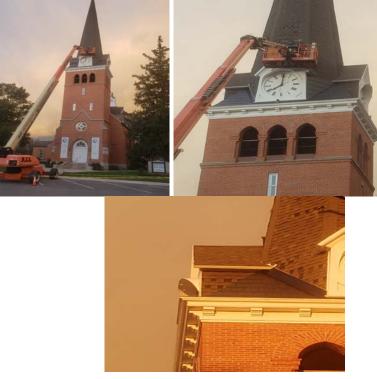
Myra Hanenkratt Council VP

Rev. Becky Erb Strang Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of October 18, 2021 **Operating Fund** Local Aid Beg. Balance \$0.00 Beg. Balance \$6,250.20 Giving Income \$7,328.75(weekly) Income \$20,444.00 (vtd) Endowment Transfers \$18,110.00(ytd) Expenses \$13,641.09(vtd) Balance \$13,053.11 Income \$239679.56 (vtd) Expenses \$243,075.93(ytd) BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15 Balance (\$3,396.37) (ytd) Bless Pantry Inc. \$20,026.00(ytd) Building Maint & Property Care Bless Pantry Ex. \$12,885.20(ytd) Beg. Balance \$73,644.37 BP Balance \$15,021.95 Income \$44,054.50(ytd) **Our Church Wider Mission** Pledge \$25,000.00 Endowment Income \$3,236.96(ytd) Expenses \$48,017.92(ytd) Income \$212.00(weekly) Balance \$72,917.91 (ytd) Income \$21,268.50 (ytd) **Project of the Year**

Income \$49.00(weekly) Balance \$4,510.00(ytd)

Reroofing work on the steeple began Monday, October 11. Here are a few pictures from the first day.







God Calls David

October 24, 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 faithful servanthood, you called Samuel to anoint David, the smallest and youngest of Jesse's son, to be king over Israel. Teach us to follow you as Samuel did. Amen.

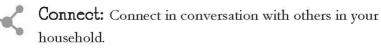


Read: Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. (1 Samuel 16:12-13)

Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

God called Samuel to do an unpopular thing—anoint David, the smallest, youngest, and prettiest of Jesse's sons. And so, he did.



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

What leadership qualities do you possess? (Everyone has some.) What other gifts has God given you? How can you use your gifts to do God's work in the world? What did God see in David? How did David's brothers feel about being passed up for the kingship?

For the littles: What can you do because you're small that others that are big can't do?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God choose you just for who you are. Amen.



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

David was nearly overlooked. Consider someone important in your life that is easy to overlook. (A kid's favorite teacher, your minister, postal delivery person, pharmacist, police, etc.) Write and send a letter, card, or email letting them know how important they are to you. Thank them for their role in your life.

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

Sunday, 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14, God Calls David Monday, 1 Samuel 17:1-11, Goliath Tuesday, 1 Samuel 17:12-23, David Visits His Brothers Wednesday, 1 Samuel 17:31-40, David Prepares for Battle Thursday, 1 Samuel 17:41-54, David Slays Goliath Friday, 1 Kings 1:28-31, Solomon Becomes King Saturday, 1 Kings 3:3-15, Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom



St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street New Bremen, Ohio 45869 Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207) Email <u>stpaulnb@nktelco.net</u> or <u>stpaulnb@gmail.com</u> Visit our website at <u>https://stpaulnb.org</u> 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, your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior. May every blessing be yours.

October 24, 2021 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost Stewardship Week One

Worship Leaders

Ministers Rev. Becky Erb Strang Emily Willrath Cheyenne Olt Dick Hudson Jim Strang Tim Olt The Congregation Senior Pastor Liturgist Accompanist/Vocalist Organist Music Director Chancel Choir Director

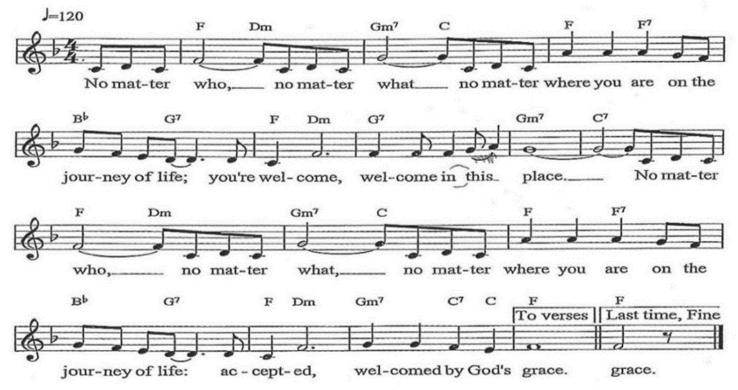
PRELUDE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME SONG





CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from <u>Flames of the Spirit</u>, Ruth C. Duck, Editor, 1985) Leader: I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Living God.

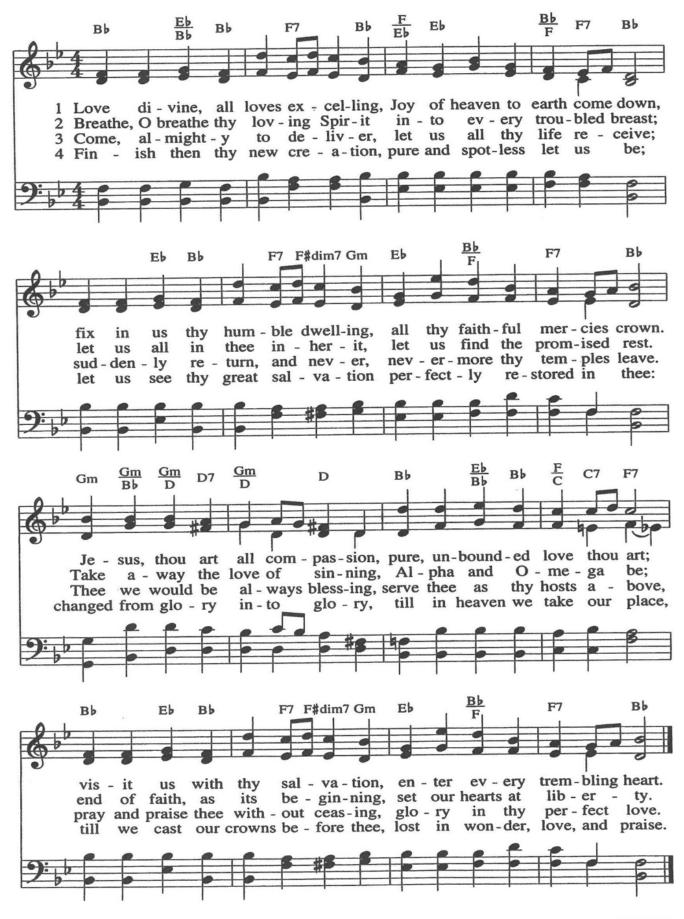
People: This is the day when we rejoice in God's act of creation. Leader: This is our Sabbath, when we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

People: We give thanks once more. God has brought us to this time of worship that we might refresh one another and be nourished by God's love.

Leader: Let us worship God!

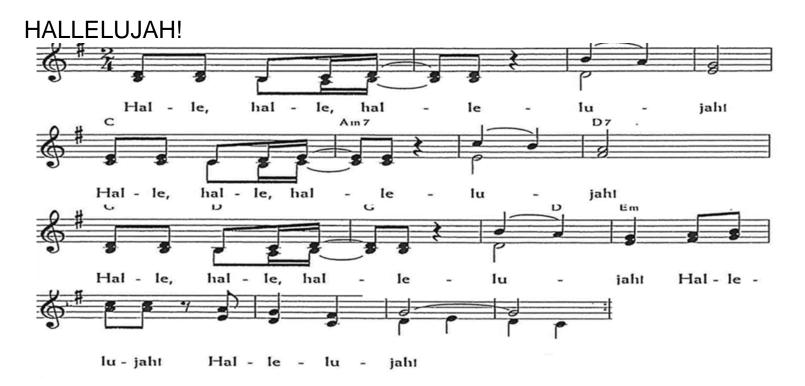
HYMN OF PRAISE Love Divine, All Loves Excelling verses 1 & 4

358 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God, for the sun and the stars, the mountains and the valleys, we, your children, come to you offering our thanks and seeking your presence. Be among us, opening our hearts to the sway of your power and your peace. We dedicate this service to you. We trust that you will work through our songs and our prayers so that we will leave this place knowing your hand has touched us. Amen.



TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US

This past winter I attended a clergy conference via Zoom led by Michael Piazza—the man who wrote the book we followed a few years ago: <u>Vital, Vintage Church</u>. While he shared this as a passing comment, my imagination was sparked. At his Atlanta-area congregation, anytime new members joined the congregation they were gifted with an apron. Why? Because, as newly minted members of the church, they were now called to be about service to others. How cool is that? Instead of asking the question, "What can my church do for me?" we are instead challenged to ask, "How can I serve my church? How can I serve this community? How can I put love into action?"

Today begins the first week of a four-week stewardship series— Called to Service: Loving God & Loving Neighbor. Over the next few weeks, we will explore what stewardship means and how, as Matthew 25 Christians, we are called to seek Jesus among the hungry and the hurting and the lost and lonely. We have set aside these weeks to imagine what is possible when we serve the wider community with our whole selves including our financial resources.

Your household will be receiving a Stewardship Packet soon, if you have not already received one. Included is an apron for the adults to share and an apron for each child in the home—for here is the truth about following Jesus: it's not only for adults, but for our children also.

This week I challenge you to put on your apron (literally or metaphorically) to serve someone in your neighborhood. Share your favorite cookies. Offer to watch their children or do their laundry. Send a card or two of encouragement. Make that phone call you have been putting off. Forgive someone. Forgive yourself. Mentor a child. Plant a tree.

Together, we can help bring about God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Loving God & Loving Neighbor

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Marv Topp, Sue Kettler, Martha Plattner, Kohneita Lear, 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

Leader: You look beyond outward appearances, O God, and see into our very hearts. Move us in the same way to push ourselves past what the surface reveals and probe the depths of ourselves and those around us, that we might bring an authentic witness to your unconditional love. Loving and Giving God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: The illusion of beauty fades, O God, as quickly as a fragile blossom wilts upon the vine. Connect us with those things which will sustain us for the long haul, rather than those which dazzle us for awhile and then dry up. Loving and Giving God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Strengthen loving relationships between people and show us by example how to truly respect and cherish one another. Bring us to a fully sense of compassion for those around us, the kind that supersedes jealousy, insecurity and bitterness. Loving and Giving God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: You have anointed us with your healing balm, and offered us the blessing of your wholeness. Pour the abundance of your healing power and presence on all who suffer, all who are sick, all who are injured, all who are recuperating from surgery. Pour the power of your Holy Spirit on healthcare workers and all who work at healthcare and nursing facilities. Rain upon all who have lost hope the gift of your love. Loving and Giving 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 before us as we strive to continually follow you. Loving and Giving God,

People: Hear our prayer.

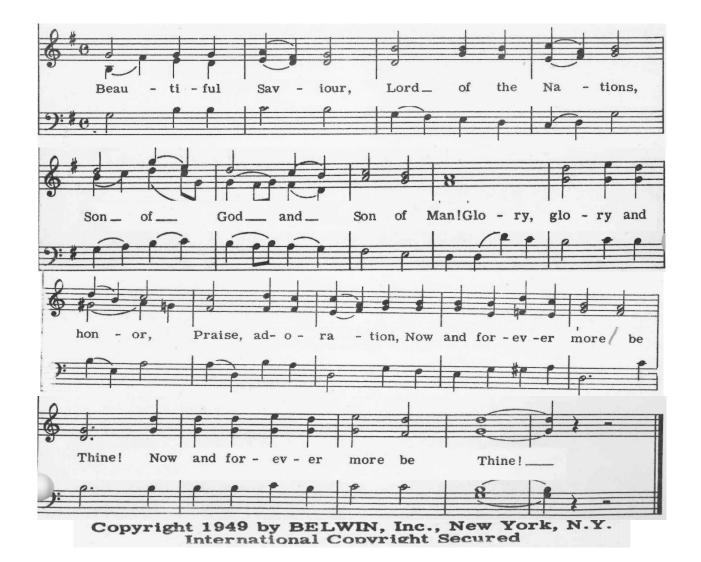
Leader: O God, cleanse our hearts and hear these prayers offered in hope for a world in which we work tirelessly to bring your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. All of this we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

Beautiful Saviour (OLD CRUSADERS' HYMN) For Mixed Voices S.A.B. (a cappella)

Arranged by ALLEN GRIFFITH





NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 4:38-44

(NRSV)

After leaving the synagogue Jesus entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her. ³⁹ Then he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. ⁴¹ Demons also came out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah.

⁴² At daybreak, Jesus departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said to them, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose." ⁴⁴ So he continued proclaiming the message in the synagogues of Judea.

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 have a confession to make. Every time this story from the Gospel of Luke is chosen for worship, I, initially, get a little anxious. When I was newly ordained nearly 30 years ago I was serving as a part time associate pastor of a UCC church in suburban Dallas, Texas. Each year at this church, the congregation celebrated "Women's Sunday." A choir of only women would sing. Scriptures would lift up the ministry of women. Before I arrived at that church, a laywoman would preach in worship.

Well, my first year at that church, I was given the dubious honor of preaching for Women's Sunday. This story from Luke was the lectionary text so I preached from it: talking about how when Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law, she got up to serve the men. I was CERTAIN that I was very careful in the sermon to talk about how healing by Jesus (for women and for men) prompts within us the response of service. That men and women alike are called to serve Jesus.

Soooo, imagine my surprise when standing in the back of the church after the service, a young father (who had lots of kids) praised my sermon for reinforcing what he already believed: that women should serve men, stay at home and make babies. Yikes!

But this time around, I've put my anxiety aside because I CHOSE today's scripture as the starting point to our four-week stewardship sermons. Our theme for these weeks is Called to Serve: Loving God & Loving Neighbor. Today's story is an excellent starting point.

Our story is domestic in nature—set in Peter's home where he invited Jesus and the disciples to dine. Yet, the head of the household, Peter's mother-in-law, was in bed with a fever. In bed and unable to provide hospitality for her guests.

Truly, I suspect that Jesus did not heal her in order to get dinner served. Over and over again, we hear stories of Jesus healing out of deep love and compassion. That ALL people are worthy of healing and wholeness of life. Yet, even this story of healing shakes up the status quo. Keeping in mind that men in Jesus' day did not touch women—except those within their own family, Jesus defied convention by touching this ailing woman, lifting her up and healing her. Through a simple act of kindness, Jesus transformed a typical domestic scene into a space for the miraculous.

The story does not end here. We are not told about the mother-inlaw's faith. However, we **are** given a picture of her response to healing. The New Revised Standard Version tells us that once the fever left her, the woman got up and began to serve Jesus and the disciples.

While we are told that Peter's mother-in-law responded to healing by serving a meal, scholars are quick to note that the same verb "serve" used in this story is also used in the story of Jesus in the wilderness in which the angels waited on or ministered to Jesus. Indeed, if the two stories and the two verbs are placed side-by-side, we see **not** that the woman merely **served** Jesus and the disciples their dinner--**she ministered to them**.

When touched by Jesus, the most natural response in the world is that of ministry—reaching out, welcoming strangers, feeding the hungry, making a difference in the lives of others. When by touched by Jesus, our response is one of hospitality. When touched by Christ's healing love, our call is to share that healing touch with others.

We knew this before the pandemic, but this holds true even more so now: times of illness and injury far too often go hand-in-hand with acute isolation. Unable to do our normal tasks, when we are ill or recovering from illness/injury, we become isolated from family, from friends, and from our faith community. Covid19 has just made this much, much worse.

Healing—whether healing is physical, spiritual, mental, or emotional—begins when we take the hand of the Holy One and move back into life—even if that life is radically different than it was before. Healing begins when we move out of isolation and back into community.

It makes a great deal of sense that once the fever left Peter's motherin-law, she got about the tasks of ministry. Her first ministry task was that of hospitality—welcoming the guests who had come to call. In many ways, that is the beginning of all ministry—a welcoming in of others, offering nurture and nourishment within one's own home.

The second task of ministry occurred later that same evening. We are told that after sundown, all who were sick gathered outside this

woman's door in order that they, too, might find healing. Ministry **begins** with simple hospitality. At its finest, ministry **continues** by flinging open the doors of our hearts that we might encounter the needs of the world around us—a world greatly in need of Christ's healing touch.

Recently, I read an astonishing novel filled with miracles called <u>Life's</u> <u>Golden Ticket</u> by Brendon Burchard. In the story, the main character is living his life without meaning. He goes to work each day to a job he hates. He comes home, ignoring his beloved fiancé to sit in front of the television and drink beer.

When his beloved Mary was gravely injured in a freak car accident, the man begins to question his life, his lack of motivation, his lack of living without any sense of direction.

As he agonizes about the pain he has caused others in his thoughtlessness, miraculous people appear to help get his life on track.

Now, I'm not going to give away the entire story, because I really do want you to read it for yourself. However, what the man in the story learned about himself is that, for his life to be meaningful, he needs to be a miracle maker for others. He needs to place himself into situations in which he can make a real difference in the lives of others.

Isn't that what happened to Peter's mother-in-law? When healed of her disease, she got about the task of ministry, of providing a life of nourishment and miracles for others.

Likewise, when we have been touched by Christ's healing touch, our response is that of ministry and mission, hospitality and wholeness. We cannot help but throw our doors wide open and welcome all God's children to experience that same healing of body, mind, and spirit.

As we begin our four-week stewardship series, healing & hospitality, ministry & mission seem to be good places to begin. As followers of Jesus, we are expected NOT to be served, but to serve others. Stewardship—the just and equitably sharing of our resources—is never ever about ourselves. Stewardship is always and forever about how we share what we have, how we serve others, how we make a difference in our world that is in so much pain.

Friends: it's time to put on your aprons and get to work. Amen.

RESPONSIVE HYMN

Seek Ye First Seek Ye First

349

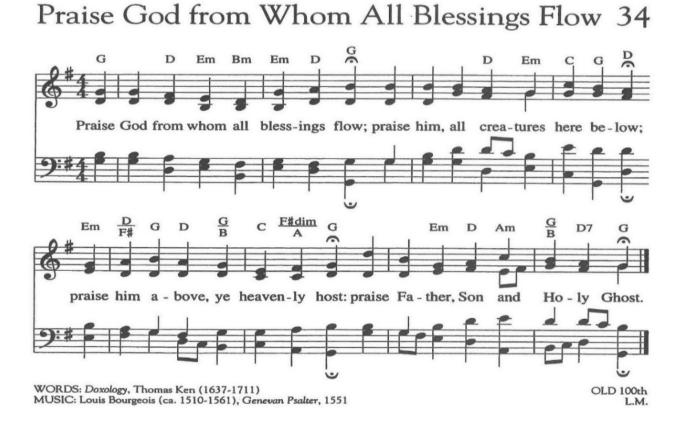
Descant 1 • e 63 Al le lu ia, al D F#m G D G 1 Seek the first king - dom of ye God and its 2 Ask, shall be giv - en and it un - to you, seek and 0 0 le lu ia, al le GD D D Em7 A7 D F#m A 8 eous right all these things ness, and shall be ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be 0 0 11 lu ia, al le lu ia. D A D G A Em7 G D G A7 D A G 0 Al - le add - ed un - to al - le - lu lu, you; ia! o-pened un - to you; Al le lu, al - le - lu ia! -8

WORDS and MUSIC: Karen Lafferty (1948-); para. Matthew 6:33, 7:7 Words and Music © 1972 Maranatha! Music (Admin. The Copyright Company)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: When we worship—in person, online or via worship packets—we offer God three things: our time, our talents (our abilities to pray, praise, sing, and serve God in the world), and our monetary gifts. God accepts these because God wants not our gifts, but us as Givers. God wants us. We are the living sacrifice. Let us give generously and joyfully.

DOXOLOGY



PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

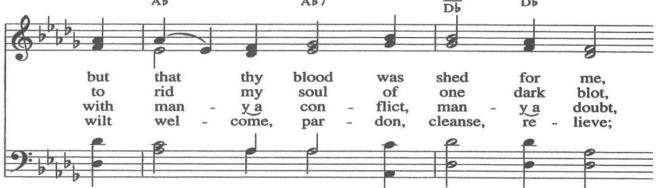
We bring what we can to you, O God, even when we fear it isn't enough or won't make a difference. Take these offerings we bring with our whole hearts and multiply them so that all might be loved by you and each of us extravagantly. Amen. Just As I Am

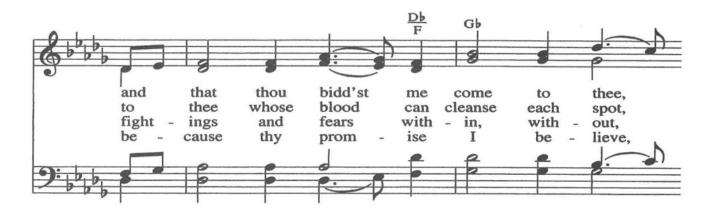
Verses 1 & 4 CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Just As I Am

354

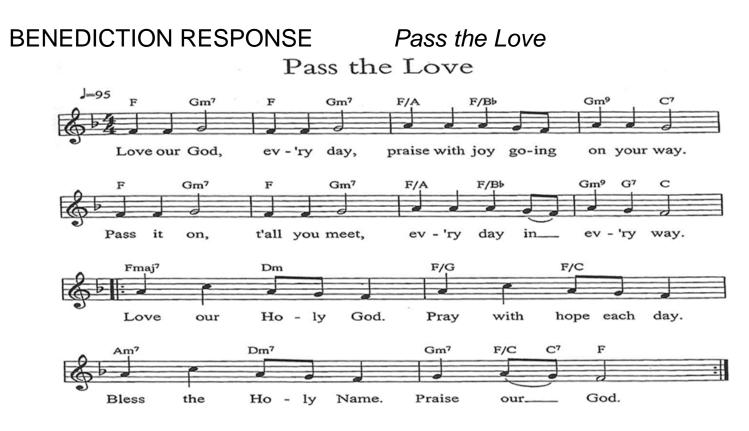








WORDS: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871) MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868) WOODWORTH L.M. BENEDICTION: Now may our God increase the love you have for one another and to all people, establishing in your hearts a covenant of peace and joy. Amen.



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 Duane Hartwig by Barb & Mike Holdren.

Attendance-Daily Devotions-54, October 10-Sunday Worship Online-237, In Person-76, Sunday School-In Person-16, Teachers-7, Splash & Jr/Sr High Youth Group-19, Confirmation-6, Leaders-7.

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

Chancel Choir-will be singing Sunday, October 24. Rehearsal begins at 9:00am in the Chapel on the 24th. Please join them. All are welcome.

Bell Choir-will be rehearsing Wednesday, November 3, 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Old and New members are welcome. We will be playing during the November 7 worship service.

All Saints Worship-During worship service on October 31, we will celebrate the saints in our lives: those who have gone before us to the Church Triumphant. Candles will be lit in memory of loved ones during the worship services. All are welcome to this meaningful service.

Veteran's Recognition November 14- Military veterans and active duty personnel will be honored at the beginning of the worship service November 14. Since, we plan to list the names of veterans and active duty folk from St. Paul UCC in the bulletin that Sunday, please call or email the church office to give us your name.

Stewardship 2021-Called to Serve: Love God & Love Neighbor Begins today and culminates November 14. Our worship services will focus on this year's theme, Called to Serve: Love God & Love Neighbor.

2022 Altar Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like. You may also call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED-October monthly mission: In 2021, Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" is focused on supporting organizations and projects serving our homeless and immigrant neighbors and communities. One third of NIN funds support the Council for the American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the Justice and Witness Ministries to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects in their communities. We have received grants in the past from this mission. Thank you for your contributions. 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, Kleenex, Garbage Bags, Diapers (size N- 6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Deodorant (men's & women's), Feminine Hygiene Products, Nail Clipper/Scissor, Tweezer. 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.

November/December 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 October 24, 2021		
Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School in person
	9:00am	Chancel Choir rehearsal
	10:15am Worsh	ip in person & via Facebook Live
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
	5:30pm-6:30pm	Splash (4 th & 5 th grade)
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm-8:30pm	Jr/Sr High Youth
	7:00pm-8:30pm	Confirmation
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Afternoon	Office Closed

E-Giving @ St. Paul <u>3 Different Ways to Give</u>

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.



SHARE THE WARMTH

Accepting Donations of <u>NEW & GENTLY USED</u> 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.