

June 13, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

We greet you in the name of the Holy Spirit who blows wind and fire and joy into our lives!

Summer is humming along at St. Paul Church. Worship services are Spirit-filled. Our SALT Interns, Elyssa Mullins and Eli Schmitmeyer are creating events for the upcoming weeks. Programs are planned for children and youth of all ages. Bryan Trego joined our staff part time beginning today to fill in the gaps while Pastor Becky recuperates from foot surgery.

Last Wednesday's Art Camp Festival was a resounding success. We fed between 350-400 people. Families stayed for hours enjoying the bouncy houses, crafts, music, and good food. We thank the many volunteers who worked to make this event welcoming of the wider community. We offer a special "Thank You" to Festival coordinators Katie Dietrich and Kathy Manbeck.

We thank you for volunteering in so many ways: Art Camp Festival, youth programming and Sunday School teaching, music ministries, and serving as Champions for a variety of ministry opportunities. We still need Champions in these areas:

**Funeral Lunches Website Upkeep Nursery Coordinator
Daily Devotions Community Meal Coordinating Team**


If you feel led by God to volunteer in any of these areas, please contact the church office.

As you know, Pastor Becky is having foot surgery on June 14 and will be out of the office for four weeks to recuperate. While Becky is away, Bryan Trego, Elyssa Mullins, Eli Schmitmeyer, Deb Klein, Abby Bushman and Barb Holdren will be available. Plan to call the church office (419-629-2502) if you have a pastoral need or emergency. Our staff will be happy to minister to and with you!

Also as a reminder, Becky's time away is for recuperation, not pleasure. She will not respond to any emails, text or Facebook messages or phone calls until she is back in the office on Friday, July 15. Thank you for your understanding! Due to staff vacations, this letter will not be included in weekly packets for the next three weeks. There will also be no financial updates at this time and possibly missing sermons in the bulletin. We thank you for your understanding.

We thank you for your faithfulness. We thank you for your generosity. We thank you for your love for God and neighbor.

Blessings,


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

Financial Information as of June 13, 2022

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$1541.00 (weekly)
Endowment Trans \$10,200.00(ytd)
Income \$147,844.38(ytd)
Expenses \$141,522.20(ytd)
Balance \$6,322.18(ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59
Income \$33,893.50(ytd)
Endowment Inc. **(\$2,790.33)**(ytd)
Expenses \$10,074.10(ytd)
Balance \$57,677.66(ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$5,755.00

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82
Income \$5,813.00(ytd)
Expenses \$11,035.37(ytd)
Balance \$6,996.45(ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12
Income \$7,813.00(ytd)
Expenses \$7,346.06(ytd)
Balance \$29,628.06(ytd)

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$87.50(weekly)
Income \$10,258.00(ytd)

E-Giving @ St. Paul

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

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.

Please keep the family of Richard "Dick" Meckstroth in your thoughts and prayers. Dick passed away Thursday, June 9, 2022. Service to celebrate his life was held Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

Jesus gives new life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 8:26-39	Jesus casts out demons
Monday	Isaiah 65:1-9	Righteousness of God's judgment
Tuesday	Galatians 3:23-29	The purpose of the law
Wednesday	Lamentations 3:6-24	God's steadfast love endures
Thursday	Matthew 9:27-34	Jesus heals
Friday	1 Timothy 6:11-19	The good fight of faith
Saturday	Psalms 22:19-28	Suffering and praise
Sunday	Luke 9:51-62	The cost of following Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming through the city how much Jesus had done for him. **Luke 8:39 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Healing God, through Jesus our Lord, your love and faithfulness overcomes judgment and your desire for life overcomes a world of pain and death. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, it is your will that the poor shall eat and be satisfied. With this food restore us with faith and your good will toward all. Amen. (Psalm 22:26)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord heal you of all troubles and cleanse you with a loving heart.



© 2018 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I'm So Glad Jesus
Lifted Me*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Tell or think about a time you felt bullied by others.
- What have you done to reach out to someone being bullied?
- Human history is filled with individuals and groups of people being hurt by others. How does your Christian faith move you to action against ill-treatment?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 8:26-39.

Being burdened by personal limitations or even oppressed by others takes on many different forms. In Luke 8 a man was tortured by unclean spirits. We may not call our personal issues "demons" as described in Luke, but we certainly know of the hurts and harassments of physical and mental illness, of abuse by others, and even the more subtle, yet equally painful experiences of being ignored as though you were not even there. The reign of God that Jesus brings heals a world of hurts. In our story of the man with many demons, Jesus not only restores him to sit at Jesus' feet fully clothed and in his right mind, Jesus also sends him out to spread the good news to others. How has your life been touched by Jesus' healing and cleansing power? How has that impacted your life to share the good news of Jesus Christ?

Pray: **Merciful Jesus, heal me where I have hurts and guide me to a life that cares for others in your name. Amen.**

SERVICE

Whether a person is incarcerated for violence, being involved with drugs, or something else, there is a need for healing and forgiveness. There are many Christian organizations that reach out to those in prison and their families. Prison ministry gives hope through Jesus. The transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus changes their lives. Bible studies, worship, counseling, and prayer play an active role in the lives of prisoners through the work of these organizations. Is there a Christian organization near you that does prison ministry? If so, pray for them and their work. How else can you support them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus healed many during his ministry. Those healed by Jesus' touch ran and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The simple act of touch has been proven to strengthen the immune system. Whether physically or emotionally ill, placing hands on a shoulder or a caring hug can provide healing. The ritual of blessing one another by physically touching a person's hand or forehead and making the sign of the cross can have a healing power. This week when you practice the ritual of blessing in your home, say this blessing as you make the sign of the cross: **May the Lord heal you of all troubles and cleanse you with a loving heart.**



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

HAPPY

FATHER'S DAY

BE STRONG
AND COURAGEOUS.

DO NOT BE AFRAID;

DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED,
FOR THE LORD
YOUR GOD
WILL BE WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO.
JOSHUA 1:9

THINKABOUTSUCHTHINGS.COM

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

Roland Dicke-Council President

Bryan Trego- Supply Pastor

Rev. Becky Erb Strang-Senior Pastor

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

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior. May every blessing be yours.

June 19, 2022

Second Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Rev. Daniel Busch

Bryan Trego

Elyssa Mullins

Eli Schmitmeyer

Katie Brautigam

Tracy Oldiges

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Northwest Ohio Association Minister

Supply Pastor

SALT Intern

SALT Intern

Accompanist

Sr. Deacon

Music Director

PRELUDE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAIN COME DOWN: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 10:16) Protestants have two sacraments in worship: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Both of these were either instituted by Jesus (communion) or commanded of his followers (baptism). The sharing of this sacred meal is both a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and a foretaste of heaven. While Protestants do not typically believe that the bread and wine become the actual Body and Blood of Christ, they are symbols of Jesus as we are nourished by his love.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 120. The key signature has one flat (Bb). 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 score includes guitar chords: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, C7, F, Dm, Gm7, C, C, F, and F.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 22:22-25. The Message by Eugene Peterson)

Leader: Here's the story I'll tell my friends when they come to worship, and I'll punctuate it with Hallelujahs:

People: Shout Hallelujah, you God-worshippers; give glory, you sons of Jacob; adore him, you daughters of Israel.

Leader: He has never let you down, never looked the other way!

People: He has never wandered off to do his own thing.

Leader: He has been right here, listening.

People: Here in this great gathering for worship, I have discovered this praise-life.

Come, Let Us Praise the Lord

9

C $\frac{G}{B}$ C Am $\frac{Cmaj7}{G}$ F $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ C G

1 Come, let us praise the Lord, with joy our God ac-claim, his
 2 Our God of match-less worth, our King be-yond com- pare, the
 3 In wor-ship bow the knee, our glo-rious God con- fess; the
 4 Come, hear his voice to - day, re - ceive what love im - parts; his

C Am Am7 D $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{G}{B}$ D7 G C F $\frac{Bdim}{D}$

great-ness tell a - broad and bless his sav - ing name. Lift high your
 deep - est bounds of earth, the hills, are in his care. He all de -
 great Cre - a - tor, he, the Lord of Right - eous - ness. He reigns un -
 ho - ly will o - bey and hard - en not your hearts. His ways are

C $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ F E Am $\frac{Dm}{F}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 C

songs be - fore his throne to whom a - lone all praise be - longs.
 crees, who by his hand pre - pared the land and formed the seas.
 seen: his flock he feeds and gent - ly leads in pas - tures green.
 best; and lead at last, all trou - bles past, to per - fect rest.

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-); para. Psalm 95
 MUSIC: John Darwall (1731-1789)

DARWALL'S 148th
 6.6.6.4.4.8.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God has come to us in Christ, but often we live as if that makes no difference. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

(from Refreshing Rains of the Living Word by Lavon Bayler)

All-knowing God, we shrink from acknowledging you, for when we do, our sins are exposed. We block out your revelation and deny the word of your prophets. We choose our own traditions in preference to the way of Christ. We deal violently with those with whom we disagree, believing that this is safer than your way of peace. O God, deliver us from our arrogance and fear; forgive our waywardness, we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God set you apart before you were born. In God's grace there is a place for you. Leave your past behind. It is forgiven. Embrace the new future Christ offers. Live and share the faith, now vital and alive to you!

People: Amen!

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

734

Glory Be to the Father

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the". The second system continues the melody and accompaniment with the lyrics: "Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is". The third system concludes the piece with the lyrics: "now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men." Above the staff, various chords are indicated, such as Eb, Bb7sus, Bb7, Eb, Bb/D, Bb, Eb, Bb/D, Eb6, Bb/F, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Bb, Gm, Bb7, Eb, and Eb.

TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US: FATHER'S DAY

About a month ago, we celebrated Mother's Day and showed our wonderful mothers how much we love and appreciate them. Today we celebrate our fathers on Father's Day. In Luke 15 there is a story about a father and a son. ¹⁸ *I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'* ²⁰ *So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'* ²² *But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!'* And they began to celebrate. The son did not think that his father would forgive like he did in this story. However the father was joyful to see his son and forgave him. This is how fathers are with their children. They will always love and forgive you just like God will. God is our spiritual parent and shows an example on how our mothers and fathers will love us as God loves all of us. So today let us celebrate our fathers especially today and show them the same love as they give us.

Let us pray: God, we thank you for our fathers for caring, loving, and forgiving us. We thank you for their guidance that they provide not only while we live with them, but throughout our entire lives. Please be with every father on this special day to show them our appreciation for them. Amen.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Celebrating the father figures in our lives!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Rev. Becky, Joe Leshner, Rob Paul, Jeff Scheer, Tim Smith, Ethel Mesloh, Donald Mohrman, Carol Mohrman, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

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

Leader: Let us pray. Faithful God, today we pray for your presence in worship. Whether we are in the sanctuary, in our homes, or on vacation, we lift up to you prayers for our congregation, our community, and your world. We pray for all those in need. SILENCE

Leader: Holy God, we are not always willing when you call. We make excuses, downplay our gifts, deflect and dodge the responsibilities you have given us. Help us past our doubts, misgivings, and lack of trust in your promises. Lead us boldly forth for the sake of your gospel. Faithful God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We are as much enslaved as we have ever been, O God. Not by shackles or bars, but by our shortsighted greed and callous disregard of the vulnerable and powerless. Bring us to repentance and reconciliation with each other and with all your creation. Faithful God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: As seasons change and uncertainty visits us daily, plant within us an assurance of your steadfast promises which have never forgotten us nor left us to flounder on our own. Faithful God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, you are who you are forever, and one word from you can bring about healing for all. Visit us with your transformative Spirit, and surround us with your presence all who are sick, all who are in need of your healing and life-giving touch. Faithful God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We stand in a long line of servants who followed you without knowing exactly where you would lead them, but trusted you nonetheless. Make us worthy to share their company, and bring us all, at length, to your eternal kingdom. Faithful God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Steadfast and loving God, gather these prayers we have offered, both aloud and silent, into your loving arms, for we know that you are faithful and will never abandon us. We pray this prayer in the name of Jesus the Messiah 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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 42

(NRSV)

*As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.*

*² My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.*

*When shall I come and behold
the face of God?*

*³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”*

*⁴ These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.*

*⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
my help*

⁶ and my God.

*My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.*

*⁷ Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your torrents;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.*

⁸ By day the Lord commands his steadfast love,

*and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.*

⁹ I say to God, my rock,

“Why have you forgotten me?

Why must I walk about mournfully

because the enemy oppresses me?”

¹⁰ As with a deadly wound in my body,

my adversaries taunt me,

while they say to me continually,

“Where is your God?”

¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul,

and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,

my help and my God.

EPISTLE LESSON: Galatians 3:25-29

(NRSV)

But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 8:26-39

(NRSV)

Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me,” ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He

said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

SUNG RESPONSE

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.

SERMON *Demons, Despair, and Deliverance* Rev. Daniel Busch

Let us pray. Ever-present God, You have given Your word to guide us as we journey through life. Open to us the life-giving truth of Your love. Grant us to know how to love one another through acts of kindness and hospitality, and in ways of justice and peace. As You have blessed us to be blessings, guide us to be servant people in acts of love and compassion. This we pray through the Living Christ. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with us, as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen. We gather together on this Lord's Day to share the good news of God's love and salvation. We worship on the day of the Lord's Resurrection and proclaim "*Christ Is Risen...Christ Is Risen...INDEED!*" We are now beginning our journey into the Pentecost Season and God's Holy Spirit is upon us to live that Resurrection Faith. I bring you greetings from your sisters and brothers of Northwest Ohio Association, Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ and the world community of faith. Thank you for your continued support of ministries and missions here in this place, this community and throughout the world. Our thoughts and prayers continue for your pastor Becky as she recovers from surgery. May God be with Pastor Becky in healing power, comfort her and give her rest to return to her duties among you and with you. Those who claim St. Paul United Church as your church family know that we appreciate all that you do as called brothers and sisters of Christ's Church.

Church life has changed so much in the last almost three years. We are doing worship differently as we also include services available on the internet and printed page. Whether worshipping in person or at home, all of you are needed to prayerfully understand your connection to God in new and exciting ways. We cannot go back to before, for change has happened and God is making all things new. Our connection to God reminds us to proclaim a message of resurrection, love and goodwill. The history of St. Paul Church is a witness that in times of sickness and health, joy and sorrow, plenty and want, God's Spirit has transformed lives and nothing is impossible WITH God. God calls us into ministry, with all our imperfections, even when we resist God's Spirit in our lives, with all our fears, with all our doubts, to bring our gifts and graces to be God's voice

and testimony to people around us who are hurting and need us to help find the unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Pray for this church, the pastor, leaders and your own personal lives so that God's will and vision will bring all of us to honor and glorify God. As the prophet Micah proclaimed almost 2500 years ago, we are *"to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God."* In today's Psalter Reading, the Psalmist writes, *"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? The Psalmist could have ended his words there and lived in misery for the rest of his life. But listen how he understood a better way, "Hope in God; for it shall again praise God, my help and my God."*

Today we are also celebrating Father's Day. Fathers come in all shapes and sizes, ages, non-biological persons, and even women have become a fatherly, parental image for so many. It is not a sexual identity, but it is a godly identity that is important to be a father, a caretaker, a compassionate role-model of love and, yes, even sensitivity to those they influence. God is often identified as father, but God also is described in the Bible as mother, parent, judge, love, friend, creator and our strength and comfort in our living and dying. The words from the Psalm this morning reminds us, *"As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. (vs. 1).* We seek God's presence in our lives and we believe that even when we reject God leading us, God is with us in all circumstances of life. Thank you fathers, in whatever form you have, for your love and witness to the Christian faith.

As we read, hear, and see the news of the day, we could become very pessimistic people. Even in places that we consider safe places, violence has erupted in such a manner that homes, churches, schools and neighborhoods are places where people fear the next act of violence or terror. Our most vulnerable in our midst are being abused by family. We are in prisons of doubt, loneliness, and bullying that make us less than what God would intend us to be. We have more people in judicial prisons than at any other time in our nation's history. Our *"internet age"* has caused us to become sideline observers rather than developing personal relationships of care and concern. The pandemic and internet has restricted personal contacts. Our narcissistic society becomes concern for the I, me, and myself. Our families and community are not relational as we should. We have become so busy with tasks that we don't

take time, as the saying goes, to “*smell the roses*” or know who our neighbors are. We are hurting and we need comfort, realizing that we cannot be alone and that we need to be connected to God and a family. We, who claim to be part of the faith community of Jesus Christ, share with others forgiveness and affirmation that each person is created in the image of God—all children of God.

Our scriptures this morning indicate that we deal with demons, are in despair, and are looking for deliverance from all that makes us less than God created us to be. These holy words remind us that it is God who frees us from all that place limitations on us. We have been prisoners of our own doing, prisoners of greed and success as we try to accumulate as many things as we can. As Christ, God does not expect us to be perfect, but rather God wants us to be people of faithfulness. The faith stories that we find in the Bible or from faith witnesses throughout history certainly show us that the heroes of faith were often imperfect, sinful, and yet forgiven and affirmed by a just and caring God. Paul writes in Galatians that “*in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith...AND...As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*” In Baptism, God claims us as children of the “*Most High,*” and names us as God’s sons and daughters. We have been baptized into the life, death AND resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a conversion experience, a “*turning around*” experience, a life-transforming experience of God’s Holy Presence that allows us to see and live life as Jesus taught us to experience it. Relationships with God and others are developed out of love because we recognize the Christ in each other. Paul uses the words “*heirs according to the promise,*” that is, we are no longer nobodies, no longer aimless and without direction. God calls us into servanthood to be stewards of God’s creation. God makes us worthy, “*worth-it*” to receive God’s gifts of unconditional love and give love that never ends.

We face many demons in our lives, especially those that make us ashamed or unworthy to be known as God’s beloved children. In the Gospel lesson we find a story of change—from insignificance to affirmation, from exclusion to recognition, from limitation to hospitality. Luke, the detail gospel writer, comments how powerful demons are. Ask anyone today who has a drug addiction or gambling problem or fears or

habitual habits that make them not welcome in society. There are demons of hatreds, injustice, bullying, abuse, putdowns, and not caring. There are legions of demons we face and control us. Demons bind us mentally, psychologically, socially, and even invade our spiritual endeavors. The man in the Gospel wanted relationships with others but could not find them, and he was often put in chains. Luke writes, *“When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?’”* At what point in our lives do we finally recognize that we need help and that it is time to call on Jesus to deliver us from demons? Even in the most desperate of times, demons still want to control us. All that would possess us want to still claim us.

Luke writes that Legion did not want to be sent back to the abyss. It is a place of unending fall, of unending aimlessness and sin, of no power of its own. It is Jesus who has the power to make things right, and sends Legion, through the swine, back to into the abyss, never to return. God has power over both life and death, and in this instance the man is given a second chance and is welcomed back into the community and his family. The people did not expect anything different and it was God’s amazing grace that healed and changed the man. He was *“clothed and in his right mind”*—the unexpected happened and they were afraid. The story is not about swine or demons. The story is about love, forgiveness, compassion and acceptance. Jesus accepted this man and showed him a better way to live life. Jesus is calling us to embrace people with all their hurts, pains and sorrows and share with them love, forgiveness, and compassion, even if they have undesirable pasts. We are called to proclaim God’s words of healing and pardon from all that separates us from God and one another. Be generous. Be hospitable. Show compassion. Show kindness. Demons. Despair. God’s deliverance changes all things and makes them new. When we return to God and embrace one another, we demonstrate our own deliverance from the prisons of destruction. God is changing lives forever. You are precious, you know, for God said so through Jesus Christ! A M E N.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: This morning we will joyfully present our offerings of money to the Lord; but we will offer not just our money: we will present also the bread and wine which will be consecrated and then given to us in remembrance of Jesus who gives us everything. We come to this time thankful, joyful, and generous.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow'. It is written in G major and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system of music includes the lyrics: 'Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;'. The second system includes: 'praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.' Above the treble staff, various chords are indicated: G, D, Em, Bm, Em, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D, Em, D/F#, G, D, G/B, C, F#dim/A, G, Em, D, Am, G/B, D7, G.

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

OLD 100th
L.M.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

You are a generous, faithful and just God: even when we fall short of those expectations of us. Accept these gifts we offer to you today as our expressions of our willingness to grow beyond our perceived limits and soar for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Blessed Assurance

D G/D D A/E

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

E7 A D G/D D

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
 burst on my sight; an-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove
 hap-py and blest, watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

D G Em/G D/A A7 D Refrain

born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry,
 filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

G D G D/F# A/E E A A7

this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; this is my

D G/D D D7 Em/G D/A A7 D

sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

BENEDICTION

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: In Christ, we are a new creation. Let us pass the peace of Christ with each other.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

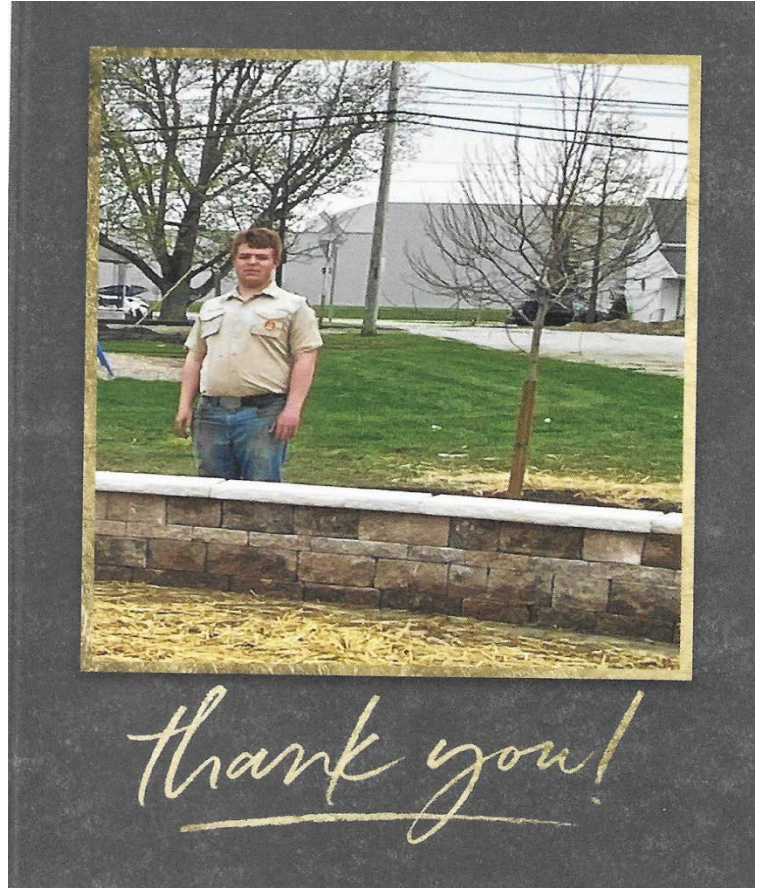
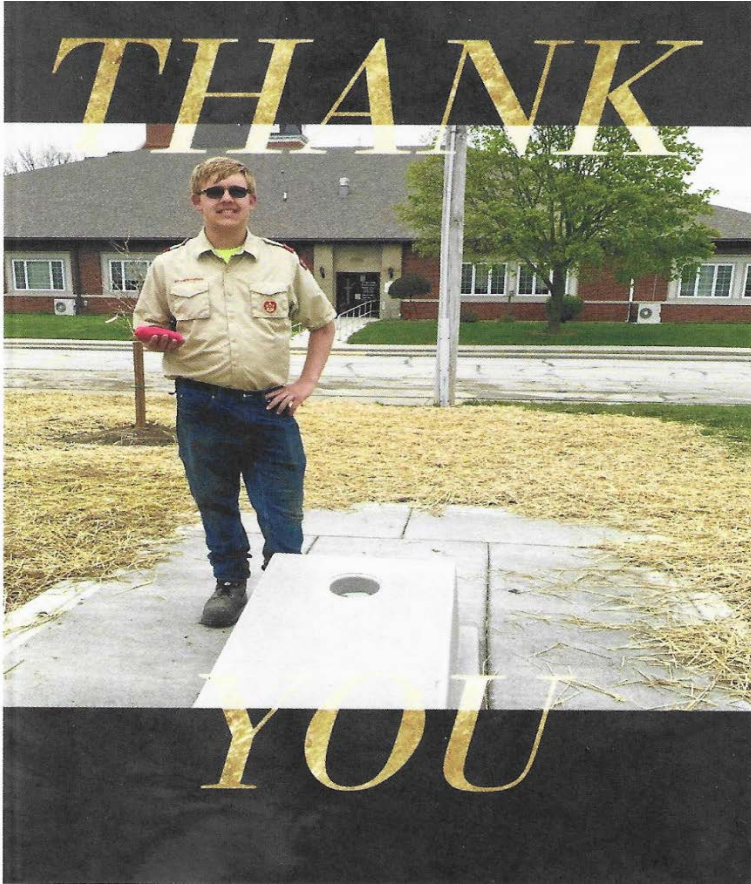
Altar Flowers are in memory of Loved Ones by Mark and Paula Topp

Participants-Daily Devotions-67, June 5-Sunday Worship Online-243, In Person-114.

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

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. They will be saved to our Facebook & Instagram page.

Thank You! Thank you for supporting our Eagle Scout Projects. With your donations we were able to complete our projects. Please stop by St Paul Community Playground and enjoy the benches and corn hole boards. Thanks! Jared and Jordan Weigandt



Senior/Retiree Luncheon-Tuesday, June 21 at Noon. Please join our Salt Interns, Eli and Elyssa for a delicious meal and a wonderful time of fellowship. Let them know you will be joining them by RSVP'ing to the church office (419-629-2502) by June 15th. All are welcome.



Book Club-A date and time have been set for our discussion on C.S. Lewis book *The Screwtape Letters*. We will meet Sunday June 26 right after worship at approximately 11:15am. For more information, please contact Cami Flenar.

New Disaster Buckets & List For Church World Service-Green Five Gallon buckets and lids can be picked up in the front of the sanctuary or by the church office to be filled with all kinds of supplies for disaster relief. The buckets and lids are free for the taking and to be filled with the list of supplies listed on the sheet of paper inside each bucket.

For every bucket you fill, the Northwest Ohio Association will give St. Paul Church grant money to fill another bucket. This one-to-one match will allow twice as many buckets to be filled to help our neighbors in times of great need. Thank you for once again stepping up to help those in need after a natural disaster. –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-Diapers (size n, 2, 4-6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Conditioner, Body Wash, Razors, Shaving Cream, Toothpaste, Sunscreen, Hand and Body Lotion, Garbage Bags, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, and Pull Ups (size 2-6). Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

June Monthly Mission-Strengthen the Church

In 2021, the Maine Conference utilized their Strengthen the Church Offering funds to create Clergy Pandemic Renewal (CPR) Grants as one way to combat the growing levels of burnout experienced by clergy. Between offering front-line spiritual care and leading their communities through massive adaptive change, our clergy were reporting deeply worrying levels of exhaustion and overwhelm. Recent research by Drs. Emily and Amelia Nagoski found seven effective strategies for helping people process stress and move back into health: physical activity, breathwork, deep connection with friends and loved ones, belly laughter,

crying, affectionate touch, and creative expression. Strengthen the Church funds enabled the Maine Conference to offer grants of up to \$800 per authorized minister to fund proposals for activities corresponding to those seven strategies. Since the launch of our CPR grant program, 28 clergy have received funds for travel, retreats, therapeutic massage, exercise equipment, gym memberships, coaching, therapy, art supplies, and even an electric drum set. Strengthen the Church funds made it possible for the Maine Conference to equip our clergy with the necessary tools to process the pandemic's pervasive emotional, spiritual, and physical fatigue. As one clergy member recently reflected, "The CPR Grant from the Maine Conference came along at the time when I needed it the most...this grant allowed me to take time just for me to tend to my mind, body, and soul. My renewal retreat funded by this grant gave me critical space for clarity and deep discernment." The Strengthen the Church Offering supports the efforts of our conferences and the national ministries of the United Church of Christ to support leaders, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Together, we all grow stronger. Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright *Designated Term, Associate Conference Minister* Maine Conference United Church of Christ

Pastor Becky's surgery went well. She is away for recuperation from foot surgery on June 14th. She will not respond to any emails, text or Facebook messages or phone calls until she is back in the office. Thank you for your understanding! If all goes well, she will return to St. Paul on Friday, July 15 and will return to worship on Sunday, July 17. Bryan Trego, Elyssa Mullins, Eli Schmitmeyer, Deb Klein, Abby Bushman and Barb Holdren will be available. Plan to call the church office (419-629-2502) if you have a pastoral need or emergency. Our staff will be happy to minister to and with you!

Lost???? Did you lose a dish? There are many unclaimed dishes in the kitchen with no names on them! Why not stop by and see if one (or more) might be yours. If they are not claimed by the end of July, they will be included in the next Rummage Sale! Thanks, Kitchen Team.

July/August 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.

Calendar-Week of June 19, 2022

Sunday	10:15am	Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop @ NB Coffee
Tuesday	10:30am-11:00am	Youth Activity NB Library
		Mindful Movement
	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	Noon	Retiree/Senior Luncheon
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:00pm-8:00pm	Volleyball-Ages 11-17
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed

E-Giving @ St. Paul

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

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.



Starting June 22nd 6-8pm

Other dates: June 29, July 13 and 20

Ages 11-17

SUMMER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

ST. PAUL UCC NEW BREMEN

EMAIL STPAULNB@NKTELCO.NET BY
JUNE 17TH WITH YOUR NAME, PHONE
NUMBER, AND SHIRT SIZE (MENS OR
WOMENS)

Call 419-629-2502 with any questions



DO GOOD SPLASH PAD FUN

Splash with Us!

Let's get wet and wild!

Wednesday, June 29th @ 10 am

Wednesday, July 27th @ 10 am

Join us in the basement for
Story Time at 10am with the
Splash Pad to follow!

Do Good Restaurant and Ministry
25 West Main Street
Osgood, Ohio 45351
419-582-GOOD (4663)

Come and Join!

July 6th 11:30am-1:30pm

**Bowling,
Pizza,
and
Friends**

Grades 6-12

Speedway Lanes, New Bremen

Contact Mimi Messick or Kim
Hemmelgarn with any questions

**Dinner and activities
are provided!**

**PARENT
DATE
NIGHT!**

**JULY 9, 2022
5-8 PM**

**CHILDREN MAY BE DROPPED OFF
AT 5PM AT ST. PAUL CHURCH IN
NEW BREMEN AND PICKED UP AT
8PM TO ALLOW PARENTS TO HAVE
A DATE NIGHT**

RSVP by Wednesday July 6th at 419-629-2502 or
stpaulnbenktelco.net