

July 25, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ and thank you for your love of God and neighbors!

We are a congregation who puts our faith into action. During the month of August, you will have the opportunity to complete a Time & Talent form, offering you new ways to serve God through St. Paul Church. This form is available in this week's bulletin. (Please add your contact information to the form). You can also complete this form online through the St. Paul website or via the link found in your bulletin. You will hear more about this during the weeks to come.

We are beginning to pivot toward fall programming at St. Paul Church. Kick-Off Sunday will be September 11: the chancel choir and bell choir return, Sunday School resumes, and youth programming will begin. As we look toward the coming months, we are still seeking Champions in these areas:

Funeral Lunch Coordinator Daily Devotions Leader

Nursery Coordinator Community Meals Coordinating Team

If you feel led by God to serve in any of these ministries, please contact Pastor Becky.

Church Council is beginning to look toward 2023. We are seeking volunteers to serve next year as:

Council Vice President Recording Secretary


Junior Elder Trustee

Please see Roland Dicke or Myra Hanenkratt if you would like to serve on Council in 2023.

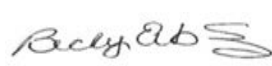
In last week's letter, we lifted up the need to shore up the Operating Fund. Your response was tremendous. Thank you! We encourage you to continue to give generously to St. Paul Church as we put our faith into action through our many ministries and missions.

May you experience the blessing of the Risen Christ this week!

Blessings,

Roland Dicke Myra Hanenkratt
Council President Council VP



Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of July 25, 2022

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$3,687.96 (weekly)
Endowment Trans \$13,300.00(ytd)
Income \$179,641.10(ytd)
Expenses \$181,391.71(ytd)
Balance **(\$1,750.61)**(ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59
Income \$35,821.50(ytd)
Endowment Inc. **(\$6,220.54)**(ytd)
Expenses \$13,778.55(ytd)
Balance \$52,471.00(ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$5,928.00

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82
Income \$17,091.20(ytd)
Expenses \$16,077.82(ytd)
Balance \$13,232.20(ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12
Income \$8,490.00(ytd)
Expenses \$8,917.62(ytd)
Balance \$28,733.50(ytd)

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$202.50(weekly)
Income \$12,956.00(ytd)



The reign of God will not be stopped.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus
Monday	Ezekiel 17:22-24	Israel to return from exile
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Living by faith
Wednesday	Psalms 107:4-22	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Thursday	Acts 5:27-42	The apostles are persecuted
Friday	Zachariah 8:1-17	God's promises to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15	A song for the sabbath day
Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"[The kingdom of God] is like a mustard seed, which when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." Mark 4:31-32 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, in Christ Jesus we thank you that by day and by night your reign of steadfast love and faithfulness will not be stopped. (Psalm 92:1-2)

Mealttime Prayer:

Nurturing God, for the seed that becomes the plant that supplies the food that shows your love, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love and faithfulness of God bless you now and always. (Psalm 92:2)



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WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Describe your experience with gardening and planting seeds.
- Think or talk about a time you have seen an act of kindness make a big difference in someone's life.
- Jesus describes the reign of God through images of tiny seeds and growth. In what way is this a message about God's kingdom?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:26-34.

With Jesus' depiction of the kingdom of God, one would expect comparisons to something like spectacular cedar trees of Lebanon (Ezekiel 17:22 and Psalm 92:12) or some other vision of grandeur. Jesus chooses something more akin to a weed, a mustard bush that is prolific in Judea. It's an example that likely made his hearers chuckle, not gasp with indescribable awe; it's another example of getting people to see differently. Just as relentless as mustard bushes or weeds are, God's reign will not be deterred. It is like the seed planted that grows and grows without human intervention. As the Gospel of Mark gets underway, the message is that the kingdom is coming. The kingdom is viewed through surprising, even humorous comparisons. It will not be stopped, not by evil, not by scribes, not by disciples who fail again and again. Evil will be overcome, voices of the kingdom will be heard, and imperfect followers will keep pointing to Christ's victory over sin and death. How do you help others see the kingdom of God more clearly?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see and believe with the eyes of faith that your reign will win the day through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

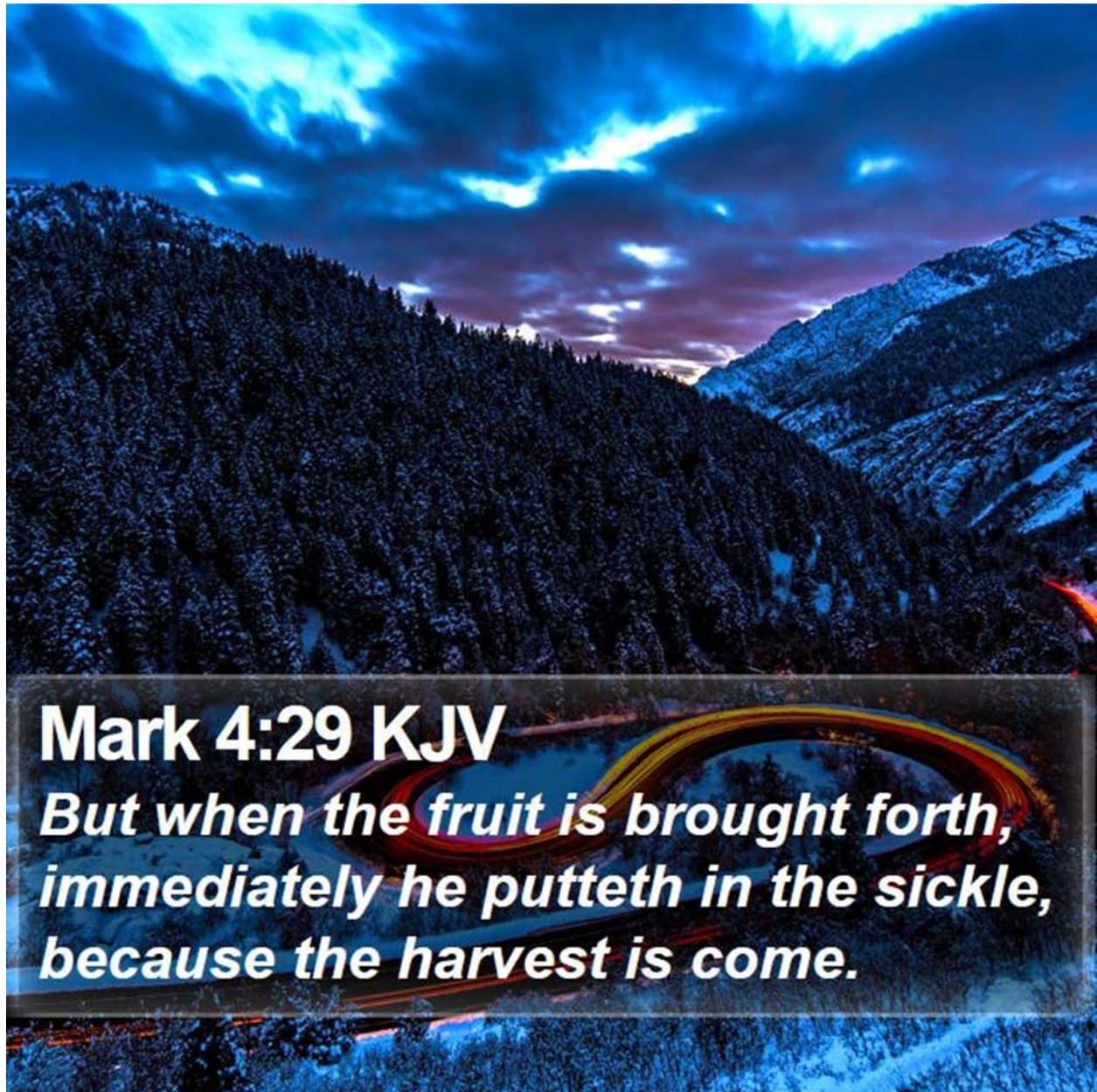
The smallest of seeds planted can become the largest of plants. Likewise, the smallest acts of kindness can grow to make a very large difference in someone's life. Think of someone who is not so visible or lonely and reach out to them. In what way does reaching out to them grow the kingdom of God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Use a leafless branch and cut out leaf shapes. During devotion time this week, think or talk about ways you have seen and felt God at work in the world. Write down those ways on leaves and add them to the branch. Praise and thank God each time you add leaves by praying: **Dear God, we thank you for caring for us. May your presence in our lives help us to continue to grow and care for others, even in ways we may not see or understand. Amen.**



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



Mark 4:29 KJV

*But when the fruit is brought forth,
immediately he putteth in the sickle,
because the harvest is come.*

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)

Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net or stpaulnb@gmail.com

Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Becky Erb Strang-Senior 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.

July 31, 2022

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Elyssa Mullins

Becky Quellhorst

Tracy Oldiges

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

SALT Intern

Organist

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: Ushers

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1) Several years ago Church Council cut the number of Deacons serving to two per year. Instead, we now have a whole team of ushers who volunteer in worship each week to greet our guests and regular worshipers, provide directions as needed and offer a St. Paul welcome to all. If you would like to usher during worship, please see Head Deacon Tracy Oldiges.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 95:6-7, NIV)

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship,

People: Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

Leader: For he is our God

People: And we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

CHRIST THE KING

342

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

C G/B C Am Em/G F C/E Bdim/D C G

1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
 2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His King - dom can - not fail, he rules both earth and heaven;
 4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope for Christ the Judge shall come

C Am G/B D G/B C G/D D7 G

Re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given:
 to gath - er all his saints to their e - ter - nal home:

C F Bdim/D Am C/E Bdim/D C F/A

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

C F Bdim/D C/E Dm/F C/G G C

Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: When we gather to praise God, we remember that we are people, who have preferred our wills to his. Accepting his power to become new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN

Often, O holy and righteous God, we dare your justice, mock your mercy, jeer your patience, slight your power, and show contempt for your love. We even say "I'm sorry" insincerely and confess our sins flippantly. We plead your help to own up carefully to how we have wronged you, to admit honestly how we have grieved you, to plead penitently for your mercy and pardon. We beg your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

People: Amen!

GLORIA PATRI

734

Glory Be to the Father

Glory Be to the Father

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. 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." The score includes various chord symbols above the vocal line, 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, Ab, Eb, G, Fm7/Ab, Eb/Bb, Gm/Bb, Bb7, and Eb.

TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US: Parables of Jesus

Today, we will read about planting seeds-such as a mustard seed. Have you ever seen a mustard seed? I have a picture. Jesus described the Kingdom of God using mustard seeds as an example. Jesus said "It is the smallest of seeds, but it becomes the largest of all the plants in the garden." When Jesus taught his followers about the Kingdom of God, He said it had a small beginning. How many disciples did Jesus start with? Twelve! Jesus began his ministry on earth with a very small group of followers, but as they told others about him, the Kingdom grew and grew until it covered the whole earth. You might think you are too small to be an important part of the Kingdom of God, but when we tell others about Jesus, we help the Kingdom of God to grow and spread over the entire earth.

Let us pray: Father, we sometimes think we are too small to be important in the Kingdom of God. Help us to remember the parables we will learn today. If we tell others about what Jesus has done for us, we can be a part of the growing Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Birth Candle welcomes Theo Andersen Reed born July 15, 2022. Theo is the son of Andersen and Chelsea Reed. Grandson of Kim and Tim Hemmelgarn. Welcome Theo!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Edith Wissman, Lois Dicke, Rob Paul, Ethel Mesloh, Donald Mohrman, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

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

Loving God, in Jesus Christ you teach us to pray and to present our petitions in his name. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love for all. SILENCE

Gracious God, you have called together people to be the church of Jesus Christ. May your people be one in faith and discipleship, breaking bread together, telling good news so that the world may believe that you are love, turn to your ways, and live in the light of your truth. SILENCE

Creator God, you made all things and called them good. May your

planet Earth be held in reverence by all people. May its resources be used wisely and its fragile balance between life and death respected. SILENCE

Eternal Ruler, in your mighty realm the nations rise and fall. Hear our prayers for those who rule the nations, that they may learn wisdom and truth, establish justice and mercy, and seek the ways of peace. SILENCE

Healing God, we pray for the many in our world who are sick, who are recuperating, who are injured, who are filled with hopelessness. Infuse all who are hurting with your gracious presence. Hear our prayers as we pray for those whose names we know and those whose names we will never know. SILENCE

Holy God, we pray for ourselves—even though we often do not have words for prayer. You know our needs. You know our brokenness. You know our joys. And you love us beyond measure. Continue to abide well with us in the days, weeks, months and years to come. SILENCE

Eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will.

We pray this in the name of your son and our savior, Jesus Christ, 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.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 4:21-29, 33-34 (NRSV)

Jesus said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? ²² For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. ²³ Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" ²⁴ And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. ²⁵ For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

²⁶ He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth

produces itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

SUNG RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Music: William B. Bradbury

Words: Anna B. Warner, Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Jesus loves me, this I know:

For his stories tell me so.

Parables to him belong

Turned upside down, he can't go wrong.

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes Jesus loves me: his stories tell me so.

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

It began by looking like a typical day in the Antwerp, Belgium train station. Lots of people were milling around, talking to friends, waiting for trains, rushing from one stop to another. The wide open main floor, surrounded by stone staircases looked like a bustling place.

Then, the mood in the train station shifted. Over the PA system a song from the musical Grease. As the people in the train station began to perk up to the music, a few people ran out into the middle of the open floor and began to dance to the music. Within seconds there were six people dancing. Twelve. Twenty-four—all dancing with clearly rehearsed moves.

As the song progressed, so did the dancing. Children began pouring down one of the staircases to join the dance. The music shifted to a funkier beat. The crowd on the floor continued to grow and continued to dance in step with one another—filling the onlookers with awe and joy.

By the time the song ended, there were hundreds of people on the floor dancing in rhythm and harmony to a song beloved by people the world over.

And then it was over. Dancers picked up their dropped bags and jackets and walked away—as if this indeed were a typical day in an Antwerp train station.

Let's watch it now: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_hlvRNngGOQ

Watching the YouTube clip, I was struck by how this carefully-orchestrated-to-not-look-orchestrated dance in a commuter rail station is much like Jesus' parables. For indeed, the Greek form of the word "parable" means to cast aside—as if this seemingly spontaneous dance/as if the stories Jesus tells were no big deal, but WE know there is more there than meets the eye.

Jesus' parables were intended to jar the listeners out of complacency—something we often forget after a lifetime of hearing these stories in Sunday School and in worship. And, like the dancers in Belgium, despite all the conclusions we might try to make about a parable, the parable—and the dance—is its own unique work of art—complete and whole unto itself.

So let's look at today's parables. In the first story, Jesus reminds his listeners that lamps are meant to illuminate truth—and cannot/should not be hidden. In the second parable we learn of seeds that are scattered and, without no help from the farmer, grow and grow until the time of abundant harvest.

Over and over and over again, Jesus used parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. Today's stories are no exception. I am convinced that the Kingdom of Heaven breaks into community life when we are open to surprising and new ways of faithful living. When we welcome the stranger into our midst, when we care for the youth who seem to have lost their way, when we offer spiritual and physical shelter to those in need, the realm of God startles us as much as music in a train station or seeds that blossom and grow even when ignored.

Pastor and theologian Richard John Neuhaus elaborates on life in community by saying that, "Real community is not homogeneity. It is the discipline and devotion of disparate people bearing with one another—the hard tasks of love."

The kingdom of God does not ask us all to look alike, act alike, think alike, vote alike. Instead, life in community is about honoring our diversity and STILL finding ways to dance and sing in praise of our God who loves us and calls us to lives of loving service.

As we dance this dance together, we become ONE with the holy, ONE with the **other**, the stranger, the outcast, the lost and alone. Christ's dance is not a "dancing-with-the-stars-winner-take-all" sort of event. Instead, it **is** profoundly a community event—we move together, we move apart, and we dance to the music of Christ's song.

And what might that music be? The music that calls us to the dance floor, the music that transforms our diversity and our differences to create a harmonic glorious whole, is the song of love.

When St. Paul United Church of Christ chooses to act in loving ways, we are much, much larger than the sum of our parts. Love brings us together AND pushes us to seek justice and mercy for others. Love shows us how to dance and then sings joyously that we might move to her rhythm. Love challenges us to move away from the sidelines and into life's holy dance.

Today's parables call us to be people of the harvest, to be people of love, to be people of a new and surprising dance that welcomes all to share in the abundance of God's harvest and love. When we wear our Christian faith less as a badge of honor and more as a mantle of servanthood, the tiny seeds of faith find a place in our hearts to take root and grow in astonishing ways. When we plant seeds of love at the start of the growing season, we can trust that God's grace will create a harvest beyond our wildest imaginations.

And isn't that what we can presume happened in Antwerp, Belgium? What started out small—just a few dancers snowballed into a glorious dance of joy filling the entire atrium of the train station. Once the music ended and those hundreds of people left the center of the train station to head to work, to head home, to go on their way—they were changed.

When we commit to planting the seeds of the realm of God, when we create space for the Holy to grow in our midst, when we work together to harvest the fruit of love and justice, we are changed.

So, my friends, let us go forth from this place as people of the parable—shaken and stirred and uprooted that we might hear Christ’s call to dance in the train stations of life. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our being. In the company of the upright, let us honor God for the blessings and goodness we have received.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system covers the lyrics: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;". The second system covers: "praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost." The score includes various chords such as G, D, Em, Bm, C, G, D, Em, F#, G, D, G/B, C, F#dim/A, Em, D, Am, G/B, D7, and 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)

God of wonder, we offer these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen.

He Leadeth Me

C G7/C C F C

1 He lead - eth me, O bless - ed thought! O words with heaven - ly
 2 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur
 3 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the

C/G G C G7/C C F

com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, where - e'er I be, still
 nor re - pine; con - tent, what - e'er my lot may be, since
 vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since

C Am C/G G7 C Refrain C G G/F

'tis God's hand that lead - eth me. He lead - eth me, he
 'tis my God who lead - eth me. He lead - eth me, he
 God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

C/E F C F/C C Am C/G G

lead - eth me, by his own hand he lead - eth me; his

C G G/F C/E F C F/C C Am C/G G7 C

faith - ful fol - lower I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

BENEDICTION: *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.—Hebrews 13:20–21*

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 95. It consists of four staves of music in the key of F major. The lyrics are: "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." The chords are: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7; F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C; Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C; Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pass the Peace of Christ to one another!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in loving memory of Henry and Esther Dicke by George and Karen Voress and Families.

Participants-Daily Devotions-49, July 10-Sunday Worship Online-167, In Person-61.

Sundays in July and August-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.

Seeking: Daily Devotions Champion(s)! SALT Interns Eli and Elyssa have led devotions via Facebook Live Monday through Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. Prior to that, Jenn Snider led Daily Devotions. We are seeking a volunteer or volunteers to lead these devotions beginning in August. Interested? Please see Pastor Becky.

Book Club-Sunday, July 31-11:15am(right after worship)-Zoom Room!- Cami Flenar, Book Club Champion, will lead Book Club in person and by Zoom. We will discuss Marlene Suyapa Bodden's The Wedding Gift. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83194831524?pwd=QzBKQ1I2Qkg2Zk5qbEV6RXJtbDN6Zz09> Meeting ID: 831 9483 1524 Passcode: 549126

Please contact the church office if you would like link emailed/texted to you. Thank you.

Elmwood Worship- Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 2:00pm. All are welcome to assist Rev. Becky with this wonderful service. Please meet her by 1:45pm at Elmwood.

August Book Club- Hello Book Lovers! For August, we will be reading "*The Day the World Came to Town*" by Jim Defede. This book is about how one small community in Newfoundland became heroes for stranded travelers in a time of chaos and confusion during the 9/11 tragedy. If you are interested in reading stories about the kindness of strangers, please join us by grabbing a copy of the book off the table by the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Cami Flenar at imac01@hotmail.com or through Facebook. We hope you can join us!

St. Paul Community Garden! St. Paul's Community Garden is thriving! Many thanks to the volunteers who keep the Garden watered. Please stop by the garden to take some produce home!

Wanted: 4'x4' remnant of linoleum/vinyl flooring. The Kitchen Clean-Up Champions are seeking a remnant of flooring that can go under one of the sinks. If you have some to donate, please see Larry or Ann Kuhn.

Crafting Baptismal Dolls. We are seeking a Baptismal Doll Champion to craft baptismal dolls from handkerchiefs to give as gifts to children at their baptisms. See Pastor Becky if you are interested.

Want to be part of the Prayer Chain? Please contact Prayer Chain Champion, Jeff Paul. The St. Paul Prayer Chain has two formats: texting and email. All are welcome.

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- Toothpaste, Feminine Hygiene Products, Diapers (size 6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Garbage Bags.** We can always use Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent, Dryer Sheets, Dish Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Bar Soap, Body Wash, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Paper Towels, Pull Ups. **Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

July Monthly Mission-Community Backpack+ and Washington UCC Back to School Ministry-We are continuing to help the disadvantaged children served by Washington UCC by supporting their *Back to School* ministry program. Continually, in the month of July we will also be helping the New Bremen based Community Backpack+ Program. Throughout the month we will be equally sharing the gifts that are donated to provide uniforms and hygiene kits to the children at Camp Washington and school supplies for the students in our community. Gifts at any level are welcomed, and will make a great impact on the children in these communities. Thank you, the Mission Team.

Disaster Relief Bucket-For those of you who have filled a disaster relief bucket, please return them soon. We will then be able to take them to the association office in Tiffin. If you would like to fill a second bucket, the association will pay you \$75.00 to do so. This money will come from the Disaster Relief Fund at the association office. There are still buckets to be used for this purpose in the front of the church, where the choir sits. Thanks, The Mission 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 July 31, 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	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm	Elmwood Worship
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	8:00am	Men's Group-Speedway Lanes

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.*

Time and Talents. We are each called to ministries of service and love. One way we fulfill this calling is through service to God through St. Paul Church. The Discipleship Team invites you to complete either this hard-copy form or the online form during the month of August. Together, we continue to serve God through St. Paul Church as we seek to Love God & Love Neighbors.

The form may be filled out one of three ways, physically on the below form and returning to the church office, on our website, stpaulnb.org, blue button, upper right hand corner marked time and talent, or by using the following link, <https://forms.gle/Ts6iU3gdejDv4fy9>.

Time and Talents

Please fill out this form to offer your time, as well as your talents, to serve our faith community.

Projects that you would be willing to help by providing your talents
(Circle all that apply)

- General Landscaping/Property Maintenance
- Cooking/Baking
- Ushering at Worship
- Delivering Home Communion Elements
- Liturgist
- Taking church recycling to the recycling center.
- Sunday School Teacher
- Youth Leader
- Bulletin Packet Stuffer
- Participate in Bell Choir
- Participate in Chancel Choir
- Accompany Pastor Becky on home visits.
- Provide Rides
- Lead Online Daily Devotions
- Craft Baptismal Doll
- Other: _____

Champion slots that need filled.

- Trunk or Treat
- Christmas Caroling
- Funeral Luncheon
- Nursery Coordinator
- Bible Study
- Community Meal

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____



SUMMER CELEBRATION

YOUTH ACTIVITY
ST. PAUL COMMUNITY
PLAYGROUND
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9TH
10 AM - 11:30 AM

JOIN US AT THE PLAYGROUND!

CRAFTS & LIGHT SNACK
ST. PAUL UCC

119 N. FRANKLIN STREET
NEW BREMEN, OH 45869

