

August 1, 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. 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.

After serving as our Lay Minister of Visitation for over a decade, Anna Louise Hoelscher retired at the beginning of this year. We are now accepting applications for this part-time staff position.

The Lay Minister of Visitation is responsible for the communication/visitation with homebound, nursing home, and recuperating members of St. Paul United Church of Christ approximately six hours per week. If the qualified candidate is a nurse, this position will be called Parish Nurse. The Parish Nurse position will include creating health-related workshops and possibly offer after-worship blood pressure screenings. Interested applicants are asked to submit a resume and cover letter to Pastor Becky as Head of Staff. Application deadline is Thursday, August 18. Questions? See 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.

**August Book Club Update:** Due to scheduling, the August Book Club (reading The Day the World Came to Town by Jim DeFede) is now scheduled for Sunday, September 18 following worship in the Zoom Room. This event will be available in person and via Zoom. Copies of the book are available on the table outside of Pastor Becky's office. Questions? See Cami Flenar

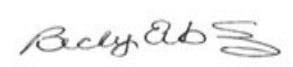
You will notice in the financials section of this packet that we are currently over \$11,000 behind in income versus expenses in the Operating Fund. Summertime is typically a slower month for St. Paul Church in terms of giving. However, if you are able, we encourage you to bring your giving up-to-date or consider an extra gift for our many ministries and missions. Thank you for your generosity! May you experience the blessing of the Risen Christ this week!

Blessings,

Roland Dicke  
Council President

Myra Hanenkratt  
Council VP



Rev. Becky Erb Strang  
Senior Pastor

### Financial Information as of August 1, 2022

#### Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00

Giving Income \$5,746.00 (weekly)

Endowment Trans \$13,300.00(ytd)

Income \$185,387.10(ytd)

Expenses \$196,710.31(ytd)

Balance **(\$11,323.21)**(ytd)

#### Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59

Income \$36,021.50(ytd)

Endowment Inc. **(\$6,220.54)**(ytd)

Expenses \$13,967.63(ytd)

Balance \$52,481.92(ytd)

#### Project of the Year

Income \$6,428.00

#### Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82

Income \$17,709.70(ytd)

Expenses \$16,202.82(ytd)

Balance \$13,725.70(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 \$1,213.50(weekly)

Income \$14,169.50(ytd)



*The people of God forgive.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 18:21-35</b>	<b>A parable about forgiveness</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Genesis 50:15-21</b>	<b>Joseph forgives his brothers</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 14:1-12</b>	<b>Do not judge another</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Exodus 14:19-31</b>	<b>Crossing the Red Sea</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalms 114</b>	<b>The Lord works wonders</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>John 8:1-11</b>	<b>Jesus intercedes for a woman</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 103:1-13</b>	<b>Thanksgiving for God's goodness</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 20:1-16</b>	<b>Parable of the vineyard workers</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.

**Psalm 103:2-3 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Gracious God, we praise you for your desire to forgive; help us to love and forgive as we are loved and forgiven through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the forgiveness of God bless you with steadfast love and mercy. (Psalm 103:4)



© 2019 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.



### 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:

- What does forgiveness mean to you? Give an example.
- Was there ever a time when you could not forgive someone? Explain.
- How is God's forgiveness a gift to you? to the church? to the world?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 18:21-35.

Jesus presents a very unreal story to make a very real point. In Jesus' day, each talent was worth more than 15 years of work. Therefore, one slave owed over 150,000 years of income while the other owed one hundred days of wages (a denarius was one day's wage). The differences are extreme to make the point that God's forgiveness of us is wildly out-of-this-world and wonderful. It leads the follower of Jesus Christ to sing or pray Psalm 103 that begins, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (v. 1). A concrete way to praise God is to "forgive your brother or sister from your heart" (Matthew 18:35) and do so again and again and again (v. 22). Or, as Jesus suggests, do you want to consider the consequences of not showing a little forgiveness to others? That lack of forgiveness Jesus says, would destroy your life (vv. 34-35). How can you praise God today by forgiving someone who has offended or hurt you? How does this parable help bring joy to your soul?

*Pray:* Merciful God, give me faith to remember how kind and generous you are to me and to praise you by being kind and forgiving to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### SERVICE

Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think of someone who needs your forgiveness. Pray for that person. Reflect on God's love and mercy shown through people like Joseph and write a note of forgiveness to that person.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Forgiveness is the theme this week in Bible readings, caring conversations, devotions, and service. Breaking a plate, saying something mean, and telling a lie are things we may not mean to do, but they happen. Think of a time when you needed to be forgiven. God forgives us again and again. Think about what this means to you. Pray the Lord's Prayer, pause as you pray, "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us", then finish the prayer.



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

## THAT ONE

BE THAT ONE. THAT ONE WHO FORGIVES WHEN DEEP OFFENSE HAS BEEN COMMITTED. THAT ONE WHO LOVES WHEN NO ONE ELSE DOES. THAT ONE WHO GIVES KINDNESS TO THOSE WHO ARE MEAN.

BE THAT ONE WHO LOOKS PAST THE INSULT, INSTEAD SEEING THE PAIN THAT MOTIVATED IT. THAT ONE WHO SHINES LIGHT UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN UTTER DARKNESS. BECAUSE THE IMPACT OF BEING THAT ONE RUNS FAR AND WIDE. IT BRINGS HEALING TO THE WOUNDED, JOY TO THE SAD, AND HOPE TO THOSE IN DESPAIR. BE THAT ONE.

*Sheri Eckert*

**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](mailto:stpaulnb@nktelco.net) or [stpaulnb@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**August 7, 2022**

**Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Worship Leaders**

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Elyssa Mullins

Connie O'Neill

Diane Gilberg

Tracy Oldiges

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

SALT Intern

Organist

Sr. Elder

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

## MOMENT FOR MISSION-Blessing Pantry

St. Paul Church's Blessing Pantry is indeed a blessing to many individuals and families in our village and the wider area. Open three times a week, we care for 30+ families per month, providing food, toiletries, cleaning supplies and diapers. Beth Bretz is our Pantry Champion who works with a large team of volunteers to keep the Pantry stocked and welcoming. During the month of August, your donations to the Monthly Mission will go toward providing for the needs of our friends and neighbors in need. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

## WELCOME SONG

No Matter

*J=120*

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.

To verses | Last time, Fine

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(from The Worship Sourcebook; Faith Alive Christian Resources; 2013)

Leader: In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

**People: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

Leader: Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

**People: He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.**

Leader: Come now, all who seek,

**People: And be warmed by the fire of love.**

HYMN OF PRAISE  
660

*I Sing Praises*  
I Sing Praises

N.C. Dmaj7 E/D

1 I sing prais-es to your name, O Lord, prais-es to your  
(2) name, O Lord, glo-ry to your

C#m7 F#m Bm7 D/E E D/E E

name, O Lord, for your name is great and great-ly to be  
name, O Lord,

Amaj7 A/C# Dmaj7 E/D

praised; I sing prais-es to your name, O Lord, prais-es to your  
I give glo-ry to your name, O Lord, glo-ry to your

C#m7 F#m Bm7

name, O Lord, for your name is great and  
name, O Lord,

WORDS and MUSIC: Terry MacAlmon (1955- )  
Words and Music © 1989 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

D/E E D/E E | 1 D/A A N.C. | 2 D/A A

great-ly to be praised. 2 I give glo-ry to your praised.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of need.

## UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN

**Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, nor walked humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him.

**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 bass 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." Above the vocal line, various chords are indicated: Eb, Bb7sus/F, Bb7/F, Eb, Bb/D, Bb, Eb, Bb/D, Eb6, Bb/F, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Bb/Ab, Eb, G, Eb/Ab, Eb, Gm/Bb, Bb7, Eb.

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

GREATOREX  
Irregular

## PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys: Baptism of** Rowen Joan Sharp, daughter of Sara and Krystel Sharp. Her sponsors are Marissa Choe and Eric Hoffman. **Baptism of** Easton Jacob Lagenkamp, son of Emily and Jake Lagenkamp. His sponsors are Rachel Echols and Isaac Langenkamp. Congratulations to both families.

**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

Most Gracious God, you have given us the gifts which we know through the moving strains of music, through a smile and a tear, a sigh and a shout, through laughter and weeping, a prayer, silence, the beauty of such a day and place...God, for these gifts and the meaning of them for each of us, know our gratitude and our expressions of praise.

We pray for the church—sometimes triumphant and present, while at other times, seeming to be failing and distant. Sometimes we are able to be together and other times we are the Body of Christ virtually from our kitchen tables. We confess that there are times when we are scattered and divided: torn and hurting, afraid and self-righteous. Sometimes we are truly serving, while at other times we demand and want only to be served. Sometimes we are filled with your Spirit, which enlivens, empowers, and transforms, while at other times we are only a skeleton that settles for what is—afraid and yes, lazy. Holy One, your Spirit catches us, fills us, and frees us. Help us to be your church, to appreciate the gifts which we are given and share them gratefully that there may be a stronger, serving, empowering and transforming body in the world: your church!

Bless, dear God, this particular congregation and the worldwide church of which we are part. We pray for unity among Christians. We pray for the healing of breaches. We pray for peace where misunderstanding, violence, and prejudice try to have the final word.

We pray for our nation, O God, divided and hurting in so many ways. Remind us again that our perceived enemies are your beloved children.



Open our eyes that we might see Christ Jesus walking among us as the beggar, the crying child, the lonely elder.

We pray for our world—this one in which we live: one in which there is abundance and yet scarcity, one in which there is food, yet hungry people, one in which there is healing, and yet virus, disease and addiction. We pray for the world which you so love that you sent us Jesus to trust and follow that there might be life and freedom forever.

Gentle God, you know the particular concerns that lie heaviest in our hearts and minds. Receive these, our silent prayers, as we offer them to you. SILENCE

God of Grace and God of Glory—we thank you for the gift of this moment to offer to you our thanks and praise. Be with us as we navigate the coming days as your beloved children.

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.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)

*Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”* <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have

*patience with me, and I will pay you.’<sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.<sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.<sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.<sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’<sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.<sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”*

## 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

If the scene didn't start with profanity, I would be showing it to you on our big screens. Created by actor, comedian, and writer Jason Sudeikis, Apple TV's Ted Lasso, has taken the world by storm. If you haven't seen it, it is the story of an American football coach hired by a British premier soccer (football) team as their coach. But here's the rub: the main character, Ted Lasso, knows nothing about British football. What's more, the team owner hired him as a revenge move. The owner, Rebecca Welton, got her ex-husband's football team as part of their divorce settlement. Rebecca's ex-husband loved that team above anything else. When Rebecca became the owner, she was determined to run the team into the ground—to destroy not only the team, but also her ex.

One of the ways she did this was to hire Ted Lasso, a bumbling coach with no soccer experience who had a perpetual optimism about

life. Then, when Ted began coaching, Rebecca worked tirelessly behind the scenes to trip him up at every turn—particularly by setting him up for bad press reports.

But her plans for vengeance did not work out the way Rebecca had planned. Ted's coaching style was one of team building and positive reinforcement. The team THRIVED under Ted's leadership and began to win more and more games. Ted Lasso was beloved by his players and the fans.

Near the end of Ted's first season with AFC Richmond (Rebecca's team), Rebecca showed up in Ted's office—confessing all the terrible things she had done to set Ted up for failure. She told Ted that she didn't care who she used or who she hurt to exact her revenge on her ex-husband.

Rebecca ended her confession by saying, "If you want to quit or call the press, I completely understand."

How did Ted Lasso react? He frowned momentarily, got up from his desk and stood in front of Rebecca. Then he said to her, "I forgive you."

I forgive you. How often do those words come out of our mouths?

My suspicion is that most of us would prefer to nurture our bitterness and hardened hearts than forgive someone who did us wrong. Most of us are soooo far away from Jesus' correction of Peter's math—instead of forgiving someone seven times, we are to forgive 77 times (or 70 x 7—depending on your translation.)

Jesus then launched into yet another parable—this time about a king who wished to settle his accounts. The king began by asking a person who owed him a large sum of money for his money back. When the man couldn't pay, the king ordered that the man and his entire household be sold into slavery. Frantic, the man begged for more time to pay his debt. The king relented and offered the man time and mercy.

You'd think the man in debt would have learned something from this, but he did not. He went to the people who owed him money demanding immediate payment. He allowed no room for mercy. When the king heard what was happening, he summoned that man, showing his anger and frustration that mercy had not been shown.

Mercy and forgiveness go hand-in-hand. We WANT to believe in God's mercy and forgiveness, but like the man with large debts to the king, we generally do a lousy job of offering forgiveness to others. Or, perhaps, we are willing to offer someone forgiveness a few times, but once we've been burned again and again, we don't even attempt 77 times.

Jesus' math of 77 or seventy times seven is biblical. In Genesis 4:15, we hear God declaring that anyone who kills Cain will receive a sevenfold vengeance. Jesus turns vengeance upside down and calls instead for sevenfold mercy and forgiveness. And let's be honest here. Jesus isn't asking us to count to 77 before we stop forgiving others. He is saying that forgiveness needs to happen generously and beyond calculation.

Jesus reminds us again and again and again that forgiveness is key to life in community. That forgiveness is key to life. It is the key to life itself.

We certainly know forgiveness is not always easy. In fact, it is one of the most difficult things we will do in this life we have been given. Yet, if we are committed to following Jesus, to being disciples of Christ, we must make forgiveness a way of life. Every time we forgive the unforgivable, we are choosing the path of love.

Brandon Hatmaker, pastor and author of [The Barefoot Church](#) writes this:

*Can't decide if you should give? Choose love.*

*Can't seem to swallow your pride on a foolish matter? Choose love.*

*Having a hard time forgiving someone? Choose love.*

*Would you rather keep your time for yourself than helping someone in need? Choose love.*

*What would Jesus really do? Choose love.*

Rev. Hatmaker reminds us that following Jesus is about choosing the most loving option. Not just sometimes. But always.

Now hear me well. Forgiveness 77 times does NOT mean you need to put yourself in harm's way. Forgiveness is a gift not only to the person you forgive, but also a gift to yourself. Forgiveness thaws your frozen heart, but it does not require that you walk again and again into harmful relationships or situations. As Frederick Buechner wrote in his delightful book [Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC](#), *To forgive somebody is to say*

*one way or another, "You have done something unspeakable, and by all rights I should call it quits between us. Both my pride and my principles demand no less. However, although I make no guarantees that I will forget what you've done, and though we may both carry the scars for life, I refuse to let it stand between us. I still want you for my friend."*

Jesus calls us to forgive, but that doesn't mean we need to forget.

It should be instructive to know that "forgiveness" in Greek means "untying the knot." When we forgive others, when we forgive ourselves, we untie the knots that tangle us up and hold us hostage.

When Ted Lasso forgave Rebecca Welton, he untied knots of bitterness and revenge. That scene of confession and forgiveness ended with Ted reaching out his hand to shake Rebecca's. With tears in her eyes, Rebecca skipped Ted's hand and wrapped him in a hug. Forgiven, Rebecca responded with love.

Friends, you are loved. You are forgiven. You are a beloved child of God. This week, I challenge you to take that knowledge to show love and mercy in extravagant ways. Amen.

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: We live in an "already-but-not-yet" time. We look around and see the healthy green crops of justice and peace struggling to grow, mixed in with the weeds of violence and suffering and fear. We wait like the farmer for the bountiful harvest of God's reign, and in the meantime, we are working hard to nurture every little green shoot of hope. These gifts today are one way we tend the garden, this beautiful green garden of God, staking our hope on the future yield promised by God. Let us give generously for the building up of God's kingdom.

## 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 notes. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be-low; praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost."

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

OLD 100th  
L.M.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**With gratitude and praise we offer ourselves to you, O God, with the talents and treasure you have given to us. We offer ourselves to you, O God, to be your messengers to let people know that you are with them, to save them from despair and give them hope, to save them from fear and give them confidence, to save them from death and give them life. All of this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our living and loving Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (adapted from Worship Ways: Worship Resources for The United Church of Christ. The Rev. Dr. J. Mary Luti. Copyright 2006, Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Team)

INVITATION

Leader: Dear friends, the Spirit of God gives life to the world!

**People: Life that never ends!**

Leader: Here and now, Christ feeds the world!

**People: Plenty for all, enough for today!**

Leader: Come to the table of justice and joy!

**People: No one will be turned away! No neighbor in need will go wanting!**

Leader: Let praise go up to God in our life!

**People: From every creature on God's good earth!**

COMMUNION PRAYER (unison)

**How right it is to praise you, Gracious God, for in the beginning, when the world was fresh from your hand, you made us neighbors—one people in many kinds—and lavished on us pleasures too many to name or know! For you we were sheer delight. For each other, helpers and friends. And so you entrusted us to your justice and your joy. But we kept them for a few and denied them to many, creating worlds of poverty and pain. And so we broke each other's hearts. But you did not reject us. In the fullness of time you gave us Jesus, full of grace and truth. By his ministry of mercy, you restored us to each other and to you: mending our hearts and repairing the world. And by his Spirit you impel us even now to be for each other what he is for us—pardon**

**and peace, blessing and delight. For all your gifts, we thank you!  
And with everything that lives under, on, and above the world, we  
give you glory, and we praise your name!**

### REMEMBERING JESUS

Leader: And now, O God, we remember Jesus. (Silence) We remember that he forgave our sins.

**People: He breathed on us the peace of God.**

Leader: We remember that he called us friends.

**People: He taught us to love each other as he loved us.**

Leader: We remember that he feasted with the poor and rich, with strangers and friends.

**People: To eat with him was to taste how good you are, O God. Amen**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: On the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took the loaf. And after offering thanks, he broke it saying, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Leader: Take and eat!

Leader: After supper on that same night, Jesus took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it for the forgiveness of sins."

Leader: Take and drink.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us give thanks to God in union with each other, with Christians everywhere, and with the poor and suffering neighbor, in whom we daily meet the living Christ.

**People: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus: for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the glory of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbor, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Now Let Us from This Table Rise 715

I G Dsus D Em II  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{Am7}{C}$  D G  $\frac{G}{B}$

1 Now let us from this ta - ble rise, re -  
 2 With minds a - lert, up - held by grace, to  
 3 To fill each hu - man house with love, it  
 4 Then give us grace, Com - pan - ion God, to

Am Am6 G  $\frac{Am}{G}$   $\frac{D7}{F\#}$  G Am  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G

newed in bod - y, mind, and soul; with Christ we die and  
 spread the Word in speech and deed, we fol - low in the  
 is the sac - ra - ment of care; the work that Christ be -  
 choose a - gain the pil - grim way; and help us to ac -

$\frac{Am}{C}$  D G  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{Am}{C}$  D Em Bm  $\frac{Am}{C}$  D G

rise a - gain, his self - less love has made us whole.  
 steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need.  
 gan to do we hum - bly pledge our - selves to share.  
 cept with joy the chal - lenge of to - mor - row's day.



BENEDICTION: The grace of God, deeper than our imagination; the strength of Christ, stronger than our need; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, richer than our togetherness; guide and sustain you today and in all of your tomorrows. Amen.

## BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

### Pass the Love

Musical score for "Pass the Love" in 4/4 time, tempo 95. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics and chords. 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.

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.

## 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 Lawrence and Thelma Broerman by Gin and John Voress.

**Participants**-Daily Devotions-42, July 24-Sunday Worship Online-164, In Person-55.

**Sundays in 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.

**Open Position Announcement: Lay Ministry of Visitation OR Parish Nurse**-After serving as our Lay Minister of Visitation for over a decade, Anna Louise Hoelscher retired at the beginning of this year. We are now accepting applications for this part-time staff position.

The Lay Minister of Visitation is responsible for connection with our homebound, nursing home, and recuperating members of St. Paul United Church of Christ approximately six hours per week. If the qualified candidate is a nurse, this position will be called Parish Nurse. The Parish Nurse position will include creating health-related workshops and possibly offer after-worship blood pressure screenings.

Interested applicants are asked to submit a resume and cover letter to Pastor Becky as Head of Staff. Application deadline is Thursday, August 18. Questions? See Pastor Becky

**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. 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.

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

**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 & September/October Upper Rooms**-are available at the East entrance to the education building and on the round tables in the sanctuary. Or please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

**Social Media Safety Presentation**-New Bremen Local School is asking for the support of the community in educating our children on the importance of social media safety. The district is sponsoring presentations this fall for both parents and students in grades 4-12. For over a decade Robert Hackenson Jr. has been the leading youth speaker on social media safety. He has delivered hundreds of presentations to elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, parent education nights, and colleges in 33 states across the nation.

On Wednesday evening, August 31<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hackenson will present to parents at 6:30 p.m. in the junior high gym. This presentation breaks down all of the serious issues children face with the rapid growth of technology and social media. **During this presentation you can see all of the information that your child will receive PLUS additional information just for parents**, including realistic tips, tricks, and resources to help you help your child use this technology responsibly.

Then on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hackenson will present to students during the school day on the latest trends in technology, cyber safety, and how to use social media responsibly. The district is excited to sponsor these presentations and looks forward to seeing parents on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Calendar-Week of August 7, 2022**

Sunday	10:15am	Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live w/Holy Communion
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop @ NB Coffee
Tuesday	10:00am	Youth Activity Summer Celebration @St. Paul Community Playground
	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	7:00pm	Church Council
	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

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 (return to the church office) or the online form( 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>) during the month of August. Together, we continue to serve God through St. Paul Church as we seek to Love God & Love Neighbors.

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## E-Giving @ St. Paul

**Online** – Make a donation on our website: [stpaulnb.org](http://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.

