

August 22, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

As we prepare to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion this weekend, let us celebrate that Jesus comes to us as Bread and Cup. The sacrament will be offered on both Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel and Sunday morning at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Both services will be similar, however we will only livestream the Sunday morning service.

Looking a week ahead, Sunday School begins on September 11 at 9:00 a.m. The Chancel Choir will sing in worship that day. A fellowship reception will follow worship on the 11th. Youth programs start on Wednesday September 14.

Last week, Church Council unanimously voted to hire Dr. Jeffrey Paul as Lay Minister of Visitation. Jeff begins on September 1 and will spend his 6 hours/week reaching out to our many homebound and recuperating members.

Due to a generous donation, the light fixtures/ceiling fans will soon be replaced in the Chapel and Assembly Room. If you would like either the old light fixtures or the fans for your own use, please contact Roland Dicke.

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

**Council Vice President Junior Elder
Trustee**

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

At the August Church Council meeting, Council voted to replace the parsonage upstairs air conditioning unit and furnace. **The cost for these items is \$9940.00.** We have approximately \$2000.00 raised for this project. Council invites you to give generously to the Project of the Year to complete this project. Thank you!

Approximately 20 people filled out Time and Talent forms during the month of August. While this is fewer than we hoped, we thank you for answering God's call to Love God & Love Neighbor through St.

Paul Church. If you would still like to complete a Time and Talent form, you can access it through the St. Paul Church website (stpaulnb.org).

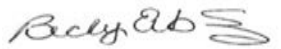
May you experience the blessing of the Risen Christ this week!

Blessings,

Roland Dicke
Council President

Myra Hanenkratt
Council VP



Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of August 29, 2022

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$6,608.57 (weekly)
Endowment Trans \$15,200.00(ytd)
Income \$204,510.96(ytd)
Expenses \$210,761.58(ytd)
Balance **(\$6,250.62)**(ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59
Income \$37,419.50(ytd)
Endowment Inc. **(\$4,014.50)**(ytd)
Expenses \$17,556.20(ytd)
Balance \$52,497.39(ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$6,547.00

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82
Income \$18,304.70(ytd)
Expenses \$16,814.67(ytd)
Balance \$13,708.85(ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12
Income \$9,110.00(ytd)
Expenses \$10,776.20(ytd)
Balance \$27,494.92(ytd)

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$292.50(weekly)
Income \$15,586.50(ytd)

taking† faith home

Faith pursues God's blessings.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 18:1-8	Parable of the persistent widow
Monday	Genesis 32:22-31	God renames Jacob
Tuesday	2 Timothy 3:14–4:5	Paul's instruction to Timothy
Wednesday	Genesis 14:17-24	Abram blessed by Melchizedek
Thursday	Psalms 42	Longing for God
Friday	James 5:13-18	Prayer of faith
Saturday	Psalms 121	Assurance of God's protection
Sunday	Luke 18:9-14	A Pharisee and tax collector pray

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." **Genesis 32:26 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of hope, give us strength to endure life's struggles and faith to pursue your justice and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, in your name we drink and sup: teach us to pray and not give up. Help us to look to you this day and show our thanks in all we say. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord protect you from this time on and forevermore.



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taking† faith home

CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- Think of something you are trying hard to accomplish. How do you go about it?
- When you see something that is unfair, do you expect God to fix it? Why or why not?
- Faith is a gift worth pursuing with all your heart. How do you explain this?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Genesis 32:22-31.

This is an amazing story. The "man" who wrestled with Jacob was actually God (vv. 28, 30). Even more, God does not win the wrestling match, and that seems to be okay with God. God honors Jacob whose name means "trickster." The trickster had deceived his father Isaac to unfairly gain his older brother's inheritance and, more importantly, the blessing that goes from Abraham and Isaac and now to Jacob instead of Esau. Like the widow in Luke 18:1-8 who persistently bothers the unjust judge to get her justice, Jacob does whatever it takes to be blessed. And God so honors that determination that God gives Jacob a new name, Israel, which in this story means "you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed" (v. 28). Jacob and God's people will now be known as Israel, a term that commends the importance of wrestling with and being persistent for God's blessings. Yes, it is true that God is the more persistent one, but God wants us to pursue the divine blessing and pursue an active life of faith instead of a complacency that takes God's word and righteousness for granted. How do you pursue God in your daily life of faith? How do you wrestle with God?

Pray: **God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, thank you for honoring our wrestling with you as faithful followers, through Christ our Lord, amen.**

SERVICE



Psalms 121:1 asks, "From where will my help come from?" The answer in the next verse is, "My help comes from the Lord." We are God's hands and feet in the world. When you see someone less fortunate or in need, where does their help come from? It, too, comes from the Lord with your help. Who in your life could use a helping hand? Take time to reach out to them through an act of kindness and tell them that the reason you are doing so is in response to God's loving presence in your life.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The theme this week is God's blessings. God blesses Jacob and King Melchizedek blessed Abram. The scripture readings also tell of the importance of prayer. In Luke 18:1, Jesus says to, "pray always and not lose heart". When done in the home regularly, prayers and blessings help us grow in our faith. Say a prayer at every meal and at bedtime this week as a reminder to pray always. Make it a practice to bless others this week by making the sign of the cross on foreheads or hands as people leave for work or school and say the words:
May the Lord protect you.



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

LUKE 18:13-14

GOD,

BE MERCIFUL TO ME,

A SINNER!



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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, this is the house of the Lord, and all are welcome to enter and praise our loving Creator.

May God's love fill you with kindness, mercy and joy.

September 3 and 4, 2022

Thirteenth Weekend After Pentecost

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Arianne Henry

Tracy Oldiges

Jim Strang

Diane Gilberg

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Accompanist

Sr. Deacon

Music Director

Sr. Elder

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: Elmwood Worship *Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life. (Proverbs 16:31)* Once a month, a team of folk from St. Paul Church lead worship that includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Elmwood Community. Because we have done this for many years, we have built relationships with the residents/participants. If you would like to join this ministry, see Pastor Becky for more information.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

J=120

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics under the first staff are: "No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the". The second staff continues the lyrics: "jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter". The third staff continues: "who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the". The fourth staff concludes the lyrics: "jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace." and includes performance directions: "To verses" and "Last time, Fine".

Chords indicated above the staff: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, C7, F, Dm, Gm7, C, C, F, F7.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 146, The Message by Eugene Peterson)

Leader: Hallelujah! O my soul, praise God!

People: All our life, we will praise God, singing songs to our God as long as we live.

Leader: Get your help from the God of Jacob, put your hope in God and know real blessing!

People: God made sky and soil, sea and fish in it.

Leader: God is in charge—always!

People: Zion's God is God for good! Hallelujah!

HYMN OF PRAISE *I Sing the Almighty Power of God*

GOD OF CREATION

31 I Sing the Almighty Power of God

N.C. $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Fm Eb Ab Db $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Db Eb Ab

1 I sing the al-might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes your glo - ries known;

N.C. $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Fm Eb Ab Db Fm Ebsus Eb Ab

that spread the flow-ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y skies.
he formed the crea-tures with his word and then pro-nounced them good.
and clouds a - rise and tem-pests blow by or - der from your throne;

Ab $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ Ab Db Eb Ab $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ Ab Db Eb

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
Lord, how your won-ders are dis-played wher - e'er I turn my eye,
while all that bor-rows life from you is ev - er in your care,

N.C. $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Fm Eb Ab Db Fm Ebsus Eb Ab

the moon shines full at his com-mand and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze up - on the sky!
and ev - ery - where that I may be, you, God, are pres-ent there.

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

May the living out of our faith, O God, generate expectations that challenge us to live up to them. May our commitment to you and your way overcome all other allegiances. Then, O God, may we admit to ourselves, to our faith community, and to our world when we fall short of who you expect us to be. May we honestly and explicitly acknowledge both when and how we get ourselves in the way of your way. By your grace, may we recommit ourselves to you that we might find ourselves again on your path of love. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives: Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and follow me.

People: Amen!

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

734

Glory Be to the Father

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). 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 notes, such as Eb, Bb7sus, Bb7, Eb, Bb, Bb, Eb, Bb, Eb6, Bb/F, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Bb, Ab, Eb, Fm7, Ab, Bb, Gm/Bb, Bb7, and Eb.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Sacrament of Baptism: Tavi James Oluwalonimi Haastrup, son of Tonya Temple and Michael Haastrup, was baptized Saturday, September 3, 2022.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Janet Eilerman, Karen Fox, Kay Makley, 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.

Leader: Let us pray. O Holy Spirit, help us so to serve you, that all the world might hear and rejoice in the greatness of your name:

Women/Girls: Lord of hosts, God of gods, Ruler of glory, Judge of earth, Lover of justice, Avenger of wrong;

Men/Boys: Upholder of life, Lifter of heads, Parent to the orphan, Protector of the weak;

All: Maker, Savior, Redeemer, Deliverer, Helper, Shepherd, Keeper, Midwife, Sheltering Wings, Forgiving God!

Leader: O Holy Spirit, help us so to serve you, that all the world might hear and rejoice in the greatness of your hand:

Women/Girls: the Hand that opens, stretches forth, anoints, lifts up, rescues, saves;

Men/Boys: the Hand that leads, abides, receives our spirits, helps, holds our lives;

All: the Hand that holds the cup—a strong hand, exalted and gentle!

Leader: O Holy Spirit, help us so to serve you, that all the world might hear and rejoice in the greatness of your arm:

Women/Girls: the Arm that creates the heavens and the earth and all who dwell therein, that performs great signs and wonders;

Men/Boys: the Arm that rules, that triumphs, that scatters the wicked and makes them still;

All: the Arm that brings slaves out of bondage, that gathers the lambs and all who are scattered—the Arm that is bared before all the nations!

Leader: O Spirit of the Living God, we lift up to you the prayers of our hearts! SILENCE

All of this we pray in the name of the Risen 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.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Joel 2:12-14, 23-32 (NRSV)

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain as before. The threshing flows shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone

who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 18:9-14

(NRSV)

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

Naomi Eisenberger was a doctoral candidate at the University of California/Los Angeles, when she published her research in the journal “Science” twenty years ago. In the article, Ms. Eisenberger and her colleagues discovered that the brain reacts to social rejection—the pain of a broken heart—the same way the brain reacts to physical injury.

Using a specially created computer game, test subjects were led to believe that they were playing ball with two other players on the computer

network. The game included a moment when the test subject was excluded from the game/other players. When this happened, the researchers explained that a “computer glitch” had taken place. A bit later, however, as the game continued, the other (simulated/not real) players excluded the test subject from the game—making it appear the test subject had suddenly been rejected and blocked from playing the game with the group.

When it was only a “computer glitch” keeping the test subject from playing, the subject’s brain did not register any kind of reaction. However, when the rejection became more personal, the computer-generated (but very real!) rejection registered its shock and distress in the anterior cingulate cortex portion of the brain—the same area that responds to physical pain.

According to Ms. Eisenberger, “these findings show how deeply rooted our need is for social connection. There is something about exclusion from others that is perceived as being harmful to our survival as something that can physically hurt us, and our body automatically knows this.” In other words, at the most basic level, our physical and emotional survival depends on being included—welcomed and part of a larger group.

Instinctively, we know this to be true. As children we felt physically sick when we were not invited to the birthday party of a friend. As teenagers, the pit in our stomach and pain in our heart grew stronger when we were dumped by a boyfriend or girlfriend. As adults, we have known incredible physical pain and illness and times of great loss—death, divorce, loss of a good friend, loss of a social circle.

With this in mind, let’s look to today’s Old Testament lesson. We know very little about the prophet Joel. Scholars continue to debate about him to this day: was he a prophet of the Temple or an outsider? Was his time period six centuries before Christ or merely four? We simply do not know.

What we **do** know is that Joel’s message, recorded in three short chapters, calls us to examine the pain in our lives. Joel calls us to examine that which swarms into our lives and rains plagues upon us that we might turn back to God, living fully within her loving embrace, within his steadfast mercy.

Plagues were certainly no stranger to the prophet Joel. In chapter one, we hear Joel say:

What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten. What the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten. Its teeth are lion's teeth, and it has the fangs of a lioness. It has laid waste to my vines and splintered my fig trees.

While we rarely have such an infestation of locusts, we have certainly known plagues of pain and sorrow. Three years into this pandemic, people are still getting sick and dying. And according to the CDC, this fall we might have a perfect storm-combination of Covid19, Monkey Pox, and Polio.

Truly, we know the plagues of sudden death and lingering illness. We know the infestation of brokenness in our families and in our neighborhoods. We know the epidemic of violence toward our children and between nations. At times, it seems as if our lives are ravaged by the locusts of life—that our vines are laid to waste and our fig trees splintered.

Like Naomi Eisenberger's study about emotional rejection and loss, we too have had our hearts broken and our bodies weakened by life's sorrow-filled plagues.

This is exactly where the prophet Joel steps in. Joel's message speaks directly to a people ravaged and rejected, lost and alone. No matter the condition of our fig trees or our hearts, the prophet urges us to turn back to God. Yes, we will continue to mourn our losses, but by offering our sorrow and brokenness to Yahweh/God Almighty, we no longer need to tear our clothing in despair, but to rend/tear our hearts instead.

Joel's message forces us to stretch our 21st century sensibilities. No longer do we believe that God rains locust and disease upon us for bad behavior, yet we are still called to take the tragedies that befall us and offer them to God. It is easy to believe in God's goodness and mercy when all is right with the world. It is much, much more difficult to remain in community and communion when the seams of our lives begin to split open.

Joel calls us in the midst of tragedy and sorrow to return to God—return to the Holy—return to life's very foundation. When we gather as

God's children to sing and dance, confess and cry, pray and ponder, we are repenting—literally turning our lives around. We gather as a community each week to confess our brokenness, that we might turn our faces toward God's open arms of loving acceptance.

When Joel tells us to tear not our garments, but to rend our hearts, we are once again being stretched beyond the life-boxes we have created for ourselves. In Joel's day—whichever century that might be!—the heart was seen as the seat of the intellect. In other words, repentance is more than feeling sorrow and feeling sorry for ourselves. It is more than feeling bad for the brokenness in our lives. When we rend our hearts, we are fully engaging our intellect AND our emotions—our heart and our mind as we turn back to God. It is as if God wants us to repent—to turn back to the Holy—not because we are riddled with guilty feelings, but because we KNOW we need God's steadfast mercy and love to shape our days.

Joel expands on this in great detail. When we turn back to God willingly, it becomes an act of heart and mind because we experience God's very nature. God, Joel tells us, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounds in steadfast love.

Now, how awesome is that?? God's graciousness means complete and total goodwill for all his people. God wills **not** tragedy, but goodness for our lives. God's mercy translates from the Hebrew as the love a mother has for her child. In other words, God loves us as a mother loves her child—unconditionally. It is in God's nature to be slow to anger. Yahweh is not hot-tempered like some red-heads I could name. Oh no! God' patiently waits for us to return—that we might know God's covenantal, relational, communal love that God has made with us forever and ever.

Imagine how these words of hope and promise might have been heard by the tax collector who went to the Temple to pray in today's New Testament parable. Unlike the self-righteous Pharisee, he knew his sin and brokenness and claimed it as his own. Then, the tax collector took the next step—he offered that brokenness to God: the Holy One who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

It is the same for each of us. When we choose to turn our lives back to God—through worship and prayer, through service and mission, through giving and living—we will know fully God's mercy and grace.

Even in the midst of the plagues that rain upon us, God is still the Lord—loving us, forgiving us, calling us his beloved children today and forevermore. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR THITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING INVITATION: God's blessings rain down upon us like manna from heaven. Sometimes we recognize them as blessings, and sometimes we don't. But God's presence is with us in either case. Today we pause on this journey to remember the many times God has been with us along the way, and has provided for our needs. Then, through the ministry of this church, we join in the work of God in providing for the needs of the world. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise. Amen.

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 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system has the lyrics: 'Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;'. The second system has the lyrics: 'praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.' Above the vocal line, 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)

O God, having the same mind among us as we have in Christ Jesus, bless this offering of our lives that we may humbly serve others as Christ has ministered to us, compassionately reconcile as we have been reconciled, gladly witness as Christ has proclaimed good news to us. Empty us that we may be filled with your generous Spirit. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Leader: Let us come to the Table, not because we must, but because we may.

People: Let us come together in humility and thanksgiving rather than in pride or possessiveness.

Leader: Let us confess, not that we are righteous, but that we love our Lord Jesus Christ and desire to remember him and be one with him.

People: Let us confess, not that we are strong, but that we are needy; not that we have any claim on Christ, but that he invites us to receive his grace and to experience his presence.

Leader: Let us humbly partake of this Meal, that Christ may be made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER (unison)

God of love, send us your Holy Spirit to be with us as we remember Jesus, your divine love in human form. As we keep in mind Christ's life, death, and resurrection, let our heavenly banquet enable us to share with one another the goodness and love you have showered upon us. We pray this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: We remember on the night of betrayal and desertion, that when Jesus shared the Passover Meal with his disciples, he took bread, blessed it and broke it, saying, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

We also remember that after supper, Jesus took the cup saying, "Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

The gifts of God for the people of God! All things are now ready!

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Leader: The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Take and eat!

Leader: The blood of Christ, the cup of blessing. Take and drink!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

O God, we thank you for uniting us by baptism in the body of Christ and by this meal which fills us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips, which have sung your praises, may speak your truth; our eyes, which have seen your love, may look with compassion on the needs of the world; our hands, which have held this loaf and cup, may be active in your service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

GOING FORTH

712 *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Unison
N.C. F C E F Dm Gm Bb C C E

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

F F A Bb F C C7 F N.C.

peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave. The
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our

F C E F Dm Gm Bb Gm Gm Bb C C E

ser - vice is end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the
faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em -

F F A Bb F C C7 F

fruits of our wor - ship in all who be - lieve. The
brac - ing God's chil - dren of each tribe and race. With

F C7

seed of the teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing, shall
 your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us: u -

F C Dm C/E C/G G C Dm7 C/E

blos - som in ac - tion in for God and for all. God's
 nite us as one in this life that we share. Then

F C/E F Dm Gm/Bb Gm Gm/Bb C C/E

grace did in - vite us, and love shall u - nite us to
 may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing give

F F/A Bb F/C C7 F

work for God's king - dom and an - swer the call.
 hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

BENEDICTION: May the God who existed before the creation itself, come into your hearts and abide there always, that you may be forever a child of God and experience Christ's Kingdom here on earth and into the time to come. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

♩=95

F Gm⁷ F Gm⁷ F/A F/B^b Gm⁹ C⁷

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go-ing on your way.

F Gm⁷ F Gm⁷ F/A F/B^b Gm⁹ G⁷ C

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in___ ev - 'ry way.

Fmaj⁷ Dm F/G F/C

Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.

Am⁷ Dm⁷ Gm⁷ F/C C⁷ F

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our___ God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in loving memory of Freda Voress by Judy, George Jr. & Karen, John & Gin Voress.

Participants-Daily Devotions-55, August 21-Sunday Worship Online-152, In Person-54.

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

Welcome Dr. Jeff Paul: Lay Minister of Visitation

Church Council unanimously voted to hire Dr. Jeff Paul as our part-time Lay Minister of Visitation. Jeff begins September 1. Please welcome Jeff to St. Paul's staff!

Saturday Worship-September 3RD, 5:00pm Beginning in September running through December, we will be worshipping the first Saturday of the month. Communion will be observed.

Women's Service Group-September's meeting is slated for Thursday, September 8. We will gather in the St Paul south parking lot at 9:30am, so we can carpool to We Can Too Opportunity Center in St Marys for a 10:00am tour. We Can Too supports the long-term goal of community employment for working-age adults in collaboration with agencies that serve individuals with development disabilities. All our welcome!

Fall Kick-Off: September 11-Fall worship and programming kicks off on Sunday, September 11. On that morning, Sunday School for children through 5th grade will meet at 9:00 a.m. The Chancel Choir will sing during worship and children (3 year olds, 1st grade students, 4th grade students) will receive their Bibles. There will be a cookie reception following worship. That Wednesday, September 14, our youth programming begins with Splash (grades 3-5) at 5:30, dinner for all ages of youth at 6:30 then Junior/Senior High Youth Group and Confirmation from 7:00-8:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Eagle Scout Project Dedication: September 18 at 2:00 p.m.

On Sunday, September 18 at 2:00 p.m., you are invited to the St. Paul Community Playground as we dedicate Jordan and Jared Weigandt's Eagle Scout projects. Both young men did a fabulous job with landscaping, benches, and corn hole. A reception will follow the formal dedication. All are welcome!

Project of the Year Update-During 2022, St. Paul Church is raising funds for smaller physical plant projects. At the August Church Council meeting, Council voted to replace the parsonage upstairs air conditioning unit and furnace. **The cost for these items is \$9940.00.** Council invites you to give generously to the Project of the Year to complete this project. Thank you!

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 page.

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.

September Book Club- Hello Book Lovers! September Book Club (reading The Day the World Came to Town by Jim DeFede) is scheduled for Sunday, September 18 following worship in the Zoom Room. 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. This event will be available in person and via Zoom. Questions? Contact Cami Flenar. We hope you can join us! Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88906786890?pwd=UGZIR3hQNFFxRENIZjI5NWwhNYU9CZz09> **Meeting ID: 889 0678 6890** **Passcode: 637129**

Monthly Mission-Local Aid The mission for the month of September is Local Aid. As the name implies, local aid helps individuals and families in our surrounding communities, meeting the needs of daily life. Aid can come in the form of gas cards, rent money and other miscellaneous repairs and expenses that may occur in our daily living. To give towards Local Aid, please mark your giving envelope accordingly, make a donation online or drop off an envelope labeled "September mission or Local Aid" in the mailbox outside of educational building east door or at the church office. Thank you!

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, Deodorant, Bleach, Dryer Sheets, All Purpose Cleaner, Disinfectants, Bar Soap, Body Wash, Tampons, Q-tips, Diapers (sizes N, 3, 4, 5 & 6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Manicure Items, Hand/Body Lotion, Vaseline, Bandages, Garbage Bags**. We can always use Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Razors, Shaving Cream, Pull Ups. **Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

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.

Calendar-Week of September 4 2022

Sunday	10:15am	Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live w/Holy Communion
Monday	All Day	Office Closed
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	9:30am	Women's Service Group
	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.