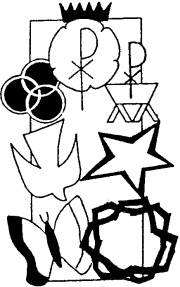


# The St. Paul Messenger



## FROM THE PASTOR

*It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace...For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:7-11)*

Dearly beloved, loved by God, and whom I love,

This is most likely my final newsletter article for you. (However, you're still stuck with me for a few more Sundays.) I have much to say for your growth in Christ. Please take these final words, written and spoken, to heart. Allow me to dispel any MYTHS, MISCONSTRUCTIONS, AND HALF-TRUTHS that I have heard regarding my decision to accept the call to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School, Fairborn.

1. "PASTOR IS GOING TO A BIGGER AND BETTER CONGREGATION": Actually, Bethlehem is pretty close in membership numbers as St. Paul, LC. However, their overall participation and dedication to Bible Study, worship, and giving is better. Could you imagine a congregation of St. Paul's size with 60 in Bible Study on a Sunday morning? President Cripe challenges you to have 20! Currently, we're at about 12. Bethlehem still has plenty of challenges. For example, just like many other congregations in our nation, there is a huge gap missing between the ages of 16 and 35. Furthermore, their congregation sees a lot of its members come and go due to the nature of city living and the Air Force.
2. "PASTOR IS GOING FOR A PAY RAISE": Until Alison was offered a job to stay at Trine, our household income was going to decrease significantly. We made the decision to accept this call, expecting a cut to our finances, but trusting that God would provide.
3. "WE'RE STUCK BECAUSE WE CAN'T KEEP A PASTOR LONG TERM": If St. Paul, LC is indeed "stuck", the issue is not with keeping a pastor for only a few years. I know of congregations that hold onto pastors for 20+ years and are stuck. That being said, I think there are some underlying issues and immature habits regarding this dilemma, which encourage your pastors to leave. I will not write it here. Please speak with me if you want things to improve—perhaps over Bible Study on Sunday morning. Here's some Bible Passages to pray and consider that also help dispel this myth: **Luke 1:37; Philippians 1:3-11; Acts 2:16-21**
4. "WE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD FOR GOD'S KINGDOM UNTIL WE HAVE A NEW PASTOR": Why wait? Wouldn't it be great for the congregation to have good, strong, directed, active, and organized lay leadership without a full-time pastor? Then, it would already be clear what you needed your pastor to be and do to keep that going! By the way, our congregation's first training for Re:Vitality is Friday, August 4 from 6:30pm-9:30pm and Saturday, August 5 from 8:30am-noon in the Preschool Building.
5. "PASTOR DOESN'T LOVE US/LIBERTY CENTER": This was a really hard decision. I have cried much. If I didn't love you, I would have quit at least 5 years ago.
6. "PASTOR WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE SO HE CAN FOCUS ON MORE IMPORTANT THINGS": No, I still have much to give and offer you, if you want it. I will still make visits/calls, at least for another week or two. When it gets to after the 15<sup>th</sup>, I will probably need to devote more time to packing and relocating.

God bless and keep you and your family,

Pastor Keith Witte

## St. Paul Shut-Ins

We keep in our prayers the following:

DELORES ATKINSON—Alpine Village Assisted Living #317,  
1032 S. Perry St., Napoleon, OH 43545

BETTY BARTELS—Home—610 East St., PO Box 73, Liberty Center, OH 43532

GLADYS DEMALINE –Home– 470 Independence Dr., Apt 1, Napoleon, OH 43545

RITA KESSLER– Home—6859 Co Rd U, Liberty Center, OH 43532

Remember our shut-ins with a note, card or a visit when appropriate.

## OFFICIAL ACTS

### Holy Baptism

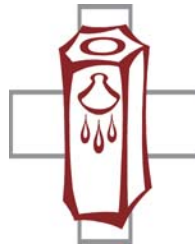
**BRINLEY RYANNE MCCLURE**

Daughter of

Ryan & Amanda McClure

On

June 25, 2017



Brinley’s sponsors are Randi Sue and Bob Murdock.

We praise the Lord for bringing Brinley saving faith through the waters of Holy Baptism.

### NEW MEMBER

*We would like to welcome Eric Coressel who was confirmed on July 9, 2017. Welcome to St. Paul!*

*THANK YOU to all who donated items for the Kitchen Shower hosted by the Women of the Church!*



## August Birthdays



Karen Hoover—1  
 Jim Weis—1  
 Harold Smith—1  
 Jason Robinson—2  
 Peg Kern—2  
 Deb Spiess—3  
 Deb Nash—4  
 Jayla McCowan—4  
 Kim Bergstedt—6  
 Mary Myles—7  
 Victor Oberhaus—9 Theresa Burmeister—10  
 Wesley Phillips—10  
 Lauren Phillips—11  
 Lee Rabe—11

John Brock—11  
 Keith Seiler—12  
 Kurt Bergstedt—12  
 Shannon Rumsey—12  
 Susan Hoover—14  
 Hunter Carnahan—14  
 Kirk Rumsey—14  
 Carl Pippin, III—18  
 Rita Kessler—19  
 Bev Overmier—20  
 April Vollmar—20  
 Hannah Bowen—20  
 John Babcock—21  
 J.R. McCowan—21  
 Jennifer Coressel—22  
 Eli Phillips—22

M. Scott Mohler—22  
 Tami Salmi—22  
 Tom Mohler—23  
 Deanna Hyde—23  
 Lee Sonnenberg—24  
 John Swearingen, Jr.—25  
 Claire Studer—27  
 Madelyn Butcher—27  
 John Swearingen, Sr.—28  
 Ryan Sonnenberg—29  
 Jackie Elling—29  
 Dakota Woods—29  
 Rich Frankforther—30  
 Rick Phillips—30  
 Lori Bostelman—31

## August Anniversaries



© wondercliparts.com

Christopher & Lori Bostelman—1  
 Sam & Liz Field—2  
 Dennis & Denise DeBolt—2  
 Bill & Deb Nash—3  
 Seth & Angela Izor—4

Wayne & Linda Wineland—11  
 Nathan & Brandi Zeiter—11  
 Jeff & Sandy Rice—24  
 Jason & Carrie Sidell—25  
 Nikk & LuAnn Hogrefe—30

## August Baptismal Birthdays



Benjamin Aschliman, Jr.—1  
 Zoe Witte—5  
 Maci Bostelman—5  
 Dan Seedorf—11  
 Rita Kessler—12  
 Cooper Butcher—12  
 Deb Nash—17  
 Victor Plassman—17  
 Derek Heath—17  
 Tyler Conmay—20  
 Renee Meyer—21  
 Jim Weis—22

Jeffrey Zacharias—22  
 Taylor Baker—23  
 Susan Wyckhouse—23  
 Bailey Izor—24  
 Matt Meienburg—24  
 Peg Kern—25  
 Christina Stennett—26  
 Kirk Rumsey—28  
 Bill Glanz—29  
 Betsy Phillips—29  
 Sam Field—30

Madelyn Butcher—30  
 Emilie Rabe—30  
 Lee Rabe—30  
 Kent Wolcott—30  
 Peyton Nash—31  
 Liam Nash—31  
 Rich Frankforther—31  
 Dylan Sexton—31  
 Tim Bartels  
 Claude Holifield  
 Ben Heitman  
 Derek Utz

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE August 2017

DATE	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	DEACON	USHERS
Aug. 6	Zaine Pittman Haley Mohler	Kaden Bergstedt	Ken Glanz	Mike Elling LeVerne Gerken Lee Sonnenberg
Aug. 13	Peyton Armev Miles Wittenmyer		Erv Sonnenberg	Ray Carpenter John Engler Rob Mohler
Aug. 20	Jeff Zacharias Mariah Bostelman	Sam Zeiter	Brian Baker	Bill Zeiter II Tom Mohler Ryan McClure
Aug. 27	Riley Chapa Madison Overmier		Ken Glanz	Jason Noaker Mike Mann Harold Smith

### August Greeters Selected

The Board of Evangelism has selected the greeters for August. Greeters are requested to greet for Sunday morning worship service. Greeters are asked to be on hand by 9:30 a.m. If there are handouts for that day, they will be labeled as such. Greeters should welcome all who come to worship, and request visitors to sign the Registration Book. If a person is unable to greet, please call Dan Seedorf at 419-265-2798, and he will see that a greeter is in place. A big **“Thank You!”** goes out to all who help to make our worshipers feel more welcome.

#### August Greeters are:

- August 6:**           **The Tom Mohler/Tim Bartels Families**
- August 13:**       **The Bill Glanz Family**
- August 20:**      **The Jeff Rice Family**
- August 27:**      **The Jeff Nash Family/Lora Pittman**



**Serving on the Altar Service Team for August are:**  
**Erv & Trudie Sonnenberg, Rex & Bridget Knipp, Brent & Jill Overmier, Carl & Stephanie Pippin, Kent & Jamie Snyder, Keith & Heather Seiler**  
**Providing flowers are: Mike & Cheryl Mann**



## *Stewardship for June/July*



DATE	ATTENDANCE	COMMUNION	S. SCHOOL	OFFERINGS
6/25	108			\$ 1,883.00
7/02	66	58		\$ 1,967.00
7/09	94			\$ 5,442.13
7/16	76	58		\$ 2,032.00
7/23	67			\$ 1,644.00
TOTAL	SUNDAY AVERAGE	SUNDAY AVERAGE	SUNDAY AVERAGE	OFFERINGS
411	82	58		\$ 12,968.13

Special Projects/Memorials for June/July \$ 2,192.22  
**Mission Door Offering—June- \$156.00**

## *Gifts and Memorials*

Blacktop  
M/M Paul Bergstedt

***Thank You!***

BRUCE CREAGER MEMORIALS

*To Parking Lot*  
 Beverly Overmier  
 Karen Ellinwood  
 Tim & Brenda Bartels  
 Donald Drummond Family  
 Ric & Deb Creager  
 Gayla Yaney & Family  
 Denelda Rohrs  
 Stephanie Homan  
 Fitzenreiter Family Farms  
 Dick & Gerry Denny

BRUCE CREAGER MEMORIALS

*To Parking Lot*  
 Eloise Dierker  
 Nona Miller & family  
 Janet Creager  
 Janet Feffer  
 Bill & Cathy Glanz  
 Milt & Lynn Davis  
 Ken & Deb Glanz Family  
 Bob Griteman  
 Bill & Jennifer Fitzenreiter  
 Tom & Janet Zachrich

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

Matthew 15:27 "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." These are the words of faith, for faith means receiving what God gives. And God has given us so much more than just the crumbs that fall from the table—He has given us life, salvation, body and soul, eyes and ears, possessions and income. That's where our stewardship starts: with faith in the God who is the greatest Giver.

## CHURCH OFFICERS—2017-2018

(New officers and board members elected at the June 25 congregational meeting are *italicized* and in **bold print**)

### Executive

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

*Bill Zeiter, Jr.*

*Cheryl Mann*

*Dan Seedorf*

### Boards

Christian Education

Elders

Evangelism

Parish Fellowship

Stewardship

Trustees

Deb Nash, Carrie Zeiter

*Scott Armey, Kirk Rumsey*, Howard Kessler, Jr.

*Deb Glanz, Marielle Glanz*

*Myrna Gibson, Carol Carpenter, Betsy Zeiter*

Penny Shamy, Lora Pittman

*Lee Sonnenberg, Ryan McClure*, Marilyn Sonnenberg,

Rob Mohler

Kim Bergstedt, Amy Meyer

Youth

Our sincere thanks to all of the departing officers and board members for their years of service, and another thank you to those members who said "Yes" when asked to serve.

## FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

"Winston Churchill reportedly said that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten, and more by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. And so, it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mind-set begins to bleed into all areas of our lives—our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question—How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others—to asking the question—what have they done for me lately. We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we have more because when we give we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus we are reflecting the divine nature. As Jesus said "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

## What's Up with the Bread?

So much bread each weekend! Why do we have it? How does it get on the shelves? Who's involved?

You may be asking these questions about the bread made available each weekend. Well, here are some answers.

Each day the Panera Bread locations have bread that won't keep for the next day. So they have made it a program to help non-profit organizations which they call, "Dough-nation." Our congregation has been accepted as the recipient for the Friday batch. Each Friday evening at 10:00 p.m., someone representing our congregation goes to Franklin Park area in Toledo to pick up bags and boxes of the bread which didn't sell that day. On Saturday morning volunteers come to the church to put the bread and bagels in bags and bring them to the shelves in the Narthex. The bread is free for the taking – we are not allowed to charge for the bread. Anyone can come and get some bread on Saturday or Sunday, so tell your friends and family members to check the shelves each weekend. The items which are left after the Sunday Service are taken to Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, so that they can use it during the coming week. So each week we are able to clear the shelves.

We also receive bread from a generous donor of Pepperidge Farm items. We benefit from the loaves, buns, and other goodies that are available, which may be near expiration.

**How can you help?** Keep this program in your prayers – thanking God for the gift of Panera bread and keeping those who get it safe on their travels. We can also use help in bagging the bread each Saturday morning at about 8:00. Donations of bags – various sizes for bagels and loaves of bread – would be appreciated, also. You may also be willing to get the bread on Friday evening. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex with each date available. Deb Glanz and Dan Seedorf are the contact people with whom you can make arrangements to assist.

Our thanks go out to the Panera Bread Company, all who have helped in any way in getting the bread ready for distribution, the Pepperidge Farm Company, and our dear Lord for bringing this program to our church.

## PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Preschool will soon be starting on September 5/6. I look forward to meeting and getting to know every child in my class and their parents too. We will hold an open house for the children on Tuesday, August 21st from 1:00-3:00 p.m. or 6:00-8:00 p.m. You may come anytime during those time periods. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

There are still openings for both 3 & 4 year old classes (Call (419-533-3041).

Sincerely,

Laura Bergstedt



## **PROJECTS THAT MAY BE COMPLETED AND/OR FUNDED BY MEMBERS OF ST. PAUL**

If you might be able to help with any of these projects., please contact Lee Sonnenberg.

### **Youth Building**

Repair Ceiling Tile  
 Complete handicapped accessibility of bathrooms  
 Tuck point (mortar) the north side of building  
 Stain Cross on south end of building

### **Parsonage**

Add insulation to crawl space  
 Leaking sink in utility room  
 Replace front storm door  
 Repair drywall as needed  
 Repair roof on SW of side porch

### **Church**

Repair or replace small windows on west side of church (8)  
 Repair window screens  
 Finish handicapped accessibility of bathrooms  
 Enclose entry area of Church  
 Install ceiling fan in entry  
 Smoke detector on each level of church  
 Bulletin board by stairway in Church entry  
 Replace bifold doors in basement

### **Church continued**

Replace all small bulbs in sanctuary with LED bulbs (dimmable bright)  
 Fix lights in basement  
 Add new lights in kitchen area  
 Repaint open entry area of church

### **Church Grounds**

Replace handicap signs and posts (4)  
 Install 2 new handicap signs and posts  
 (We have a quote of \$200 for the 6 needed handicap signs)  
 Power wash playground equipment  
 Replace some steps on equipment  
 Replace wheels on equipment  
 Purchase bench for playground  
 Power wash front entrance to church  
 Rescreen church windows as needed  
 Trim shrubs, etc.  
 Clean landscaped areas  
 Repave parking lot





**FAREWELL/APPRECIATION DINNER  
For Pastor Witte and Family**

\*To wish Pastor & Alison best wishes as they embark on the next step of their ministry journey in Fairborn, Ohio

\*In Thanksgiving of their ministry with us at St. Paul, Liberty Center

**Sunday, August 20 following Worship Services**

Menu:

- Baked Steak
- Mashed Potatoes
- Vegetable Salad
- Dinner Roll
- Pie

**Please sign the sheet in the narthex by August 13th if you will be attending the dinner or call 419-533-3041.**

**Donation of pies is also needed. A sign-up sheet is also provided in the narthex.**

+++++

***If anyone would like to give a monetary donation towards a farewell gift for Pastor and family, please see one of the elders, Scott Arme y, Kirk Rumsey or Howard Kessler by August 15th.***

***A gift card to a home store will be purchased for them.***

Please take a look at the schedules for football and hockey. If you would be able to help for any of the events, we would really appreciate it. Talk to Dan Seedorf or Myrna Gibson. We will schedule you for the events you are able to work. Thank you!

### BG Football Schedule 2017

		Set-Up Time	Game Time
Saturday, September 9	South Dakota	3:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 30	Akron	TBA	TBA
Saturday, October 14	Ohio	12:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 21	Northern Illinois	TBA	TBA
Wednesday, November 15	Toledo	4:00 p.m. 7	:00 p.m.

### BG Hockey Schedule 2017-18 (Set-up Time 5:30 p.m. Game Time 7:07 p.m.)

Sunday, October 1	Wilfred Laurier (EXH)
Friday, October 13	Michigan State
Friday & Saturday, October 20, 21	Minnesota State
Friday & Saturday, October 27, 28	Alaska
Friday & Saturday, November 10, 11	Ferris State
Friday & Saturday, November 24, 25	Miami
Friday & Saturday, December 1, 2	Bemidji State
Friday & Saturday, December 8, 9	Alabama Huntsville
Thursday, December 28	Western Michigan
Friday & Saturday, January 19, 20	Alaska Anchorage
Friday & Saturday, February 2, 3	Michigan Tech

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to help out at "The Caring Cupboard" on Wednesday morning, September 6th from 8:00am-9:30am. Your job would be to assist shoppers in selecting their items, and keeping track of their assigned points. Contact Chris Engler if you might be able to give an hour and a half of your time. A big thank you to all who have helped out in the past.