

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 45, Issue 9

September, 2022

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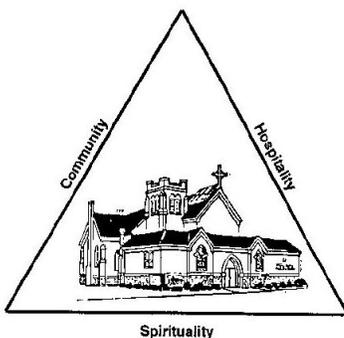
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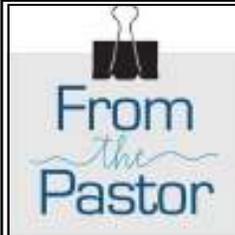
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September is here, and it is also the month when summer ends, and fall begins. Kids are back to school and hopefully, it will cool off a little bit. We have a couple of things on the horizon as we go through September; Operation Christmas Child will be in full swing, and we need to look ahead to Trunk or Treat with the kids of Elida. It is a great way to be present in our community by interacting with our neighbors in a positive way.

Thank you to everyone who has helped over the past few weeks with all the funerals we have faced. It seems like we are going through a dark time with all the losses we have faced individually, and as a church. I cling to the promise of God that we will not be alone as we are traveling through the valley of the shadow of death. I keep moving, knowing God will always hold us up, one step at a time.

We are finishing up our Children's Bible story series, and in September, we will begin a new series about God and Tractors. You may say, how are God and tractors related? You will have to tune in to see how the series will unfold. We will spend some time looking at being stuck in a rut, and how God can help us clean up around our life. We will look at all the tools we have available. Finally, we will look at harvesting and how amazing using the right combine will improve the harvest. I look forward to seeing how God and tractors go together and where it will lead us.

Until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.

—B.B. King

School and Health Kits Mission

The kits will be assembled on Thursday, September 1 at 10:00 AM.

Thank you to Bev Nesbitt for taking charge of this mission project, and to all who made kits or donated funds for Bev to purchase supplies for kits.

September 4

Coins for Communion to benefit The Samaritan House



Sunnydale House 5K

**Labor Day, September 5
Between 8:00 AM and Noon**

We have been asked to man the watering stations in front of the church, and at the Fieldhouse parking lot. We will need 4 more volunteers to help with this mission to give out cups of water. If available to work there is a sign-up sheet at the media desk.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

20th
of each month



Christian Symbol

POMEGRANATE

Because the pomegranate has an abundance of seeds, the fruit is used to represent hope and future life. It also symbolizes the many believers who are individual members of the universal Christian church.



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United Methodist Church

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Secretary	Gail Fessler
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker



BOOK CLUB RETURNS

**Saturday, September 10
@ 9:00 AM.**

**The book for discussion was chosen from our last meeting
"Where the Crawdads Sing"
By Delia Owens**

*There are several books left in the library.
Just borrow and return.
(No Fee)*

All Are Welcome!

Food Pantry Sunday September 11

Items are taken to the 5 Loaves Food Pantry at The Church at Allentown. non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies and paper products are needed.



**September 22
First Day of Fall**

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Chancel Choir Returns!

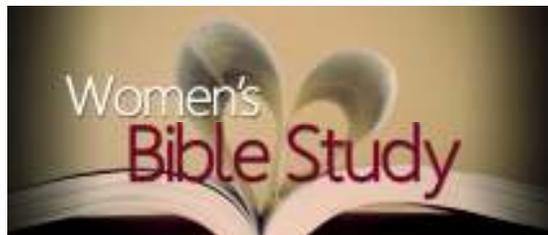
We are gearing up for another year of St. Paul's Chancel Choir to add to the worship experience on Sunday mornings. Our first rehearsal will be **Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at 7:00 PM** in the choir room. Our first worship performance will be **Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 10:00 AM**. All former members are welcomed back and any newcomers will be greeted with enthusiasm.

Scripture from Colossians 3:16 says: *"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."* Join us for the discipline of preparing God's messages to learn, rethink, and remind ourselves of His ways.

We sing, pray, and almost always spend time with joy and laughter of one kind or another. We are blessed to serve and grow as Christians in this way. We ask for your prayers to support our mission. Bless YOU and all your support in the past years to encourage and help us. May God bless St. Paul's this coming year!



Poem



The Women's Bible Study group has some very special moments-both serious and not so serious. The following piece came from one of our members, Lois Messner, who composed it and was willing to share with our congregation.

Bride of Promise

By Lois Messner

I cannot fathom or understand your love for me,
 But I will bathe in it's expression,
 And allow it's fragrance to penetrate my soul,
 That all will know I have been chosen by my beloved.
 Oh, how I desire your touch, to see your face!
 How long must I linger before you come for me!
 All around I gaze at the evidence you left behind,
 I am consoled with your words and promise.
 I hear of your acts of kindness, your display of power,
 And I need to proclaim your magnificent works.
 Your reputation precedes your returning.
 I know you are making ready my home; do not tarry long.
 Your wealth boundless, but it's your presence I cherish.
 My heart aches for the taunters with no lovers,
 The disbelievers with no promise.
 Why do they despise what they really desire.
 Ridicule what they do not possess?
 Soon they will realize they are no match for my beloved,
 Their destruction for declaring me a fool is imminent;
 When you claim your bride of promise before all the world.

Women's Bible Study

We learn so much from our studies, as our leader, Kathy Waldick, invests a tremendous amount of time researching the scripture we study and as a long time Bible Study leader, she brings a new perspective to help us think about scripture in a new way. We also never fail to find something to laugh about. You are welcome to join us anytime. We are currently studying the book of Isaiah, but will interrupt that for a bit to go through **"The Prayer of Jabez."** **The study will begin September 8, 2022.**

As an example, last week we revisited Satan in Ezekiel to be reminded of the following:

Ezekiel 28:13

*"You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone was your covering:
The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;
The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;
The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;
And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets,
Was in you.
On the day that you were created
They were prepared.*

Ezekiel 28:14

*"You were the anointed cherub who covers,
And I placed you there.
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.*

Ezekiel 28:15

*"You were blameless in your ways
From the day you were created
Until unrighteousness was found in you.*

Ezekiel 28:16

*"By the abundance of your trade
You were internally filled with violence,
And you sinned;
Therefore I have cast you as profane
From the mountain of God.
And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub,
From the midst of the stones of fire.*

Ezekiel 28:17

*"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.
I cast you to the ground;
I put you before kings,
That they may see you.*

So in examining this scripture we are reminded that God created Satan to be a most beautiful angel. He was adorned with every beautiful jewel. But the sin of pride, due to his beauty, caused him to be corrupted and thus began a different course for him. It is important to think on these things. Join us on **Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00** in the room by the office for a rich time of study, relationship, and just plain fun.

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
July 31, 2022	64
August 7, 2022	54
August 14, 2022	82
August 21, 2022	56
August 28, 2022	70

Financial Giving
 Weekly Need for
 Unified Ministry Budget
 \$3,879.00

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
July 31, 2022	\$2,015.00	\$945.00
August 7, 2022	\$4,846.00	\$1,721.33
August 14, 2022	\$7,188.00	\$1,115.00
August 21, 2022	\$3,515.00	\$420.00
August 28, 2022	\$3,153.00	\$1,343.00

Sunday School Attendance	
July 31, 2022	8
August 7, 2022	3
August 14, 2022	11
August 21, 2022	4
August 28, 2022	11

Flower Calendar	
September 4, 2022	Myrna Metzger
September 11, 2022	Lynda Evans
September 18, 2022	Jon & Chelsey Cook
September 25, 2022	Don & Maedene Holmes

It Only Takes A Spark

Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion. Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.

—William Arthur Ward

Daily Bible Readings

Thursday 9/1

Psalm 83, 85, 86, Judges 8:22-35
Acts 4:1-12, John 1:43-51

Friday 9/2

Psalm 88, 91, 92
Judges 9:1-16, 19-21
Acts 4:13-31, John 2:2-12

Saturday 9/3

Psalm 87, 90, 136, Judges 9:22-57
Acts 4:32-5:11, John 13-25

Sunday 9/4

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
Judges 11:1-11, 40
2 Corinthians 11:21-31
Mark 4:35-41

Monday 9/5

Psalm 89, Judges 12:1-7
Acts 3:1-21, John 3:1-21

Tuesday 9/6

Psalm 95, 100, Judges 13:15-24
Acts 5:27-42, John 3:22-36

Wednesday 9/7

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Judges 13:15-24
Acts 6:15-7:16, John 4:27-42

Thursday 9/8

Psalm 105, Judges 14:1-19
Acts 6:15-7:16, John 4:27-42

Friday 9/9

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Judges 14:20-15:20
Acts 7:17-29, John 4:43-54

Saturday 9/10

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
Judges 16:1-14
Acts 7:30-43, John 5:1-18

Sunday 9/11

Psalm 118, 145, Judges 16:15-31
2 Corinthians 13:1-11
Mark 5:25-34

Monday 9/12

Psalm 106, Judges 17:1-13
Acts 7:44-8:1, John 5:19-29

Tuesday 9/13

Psalm 120, 127, Judges 18:1-15
Acts 8:1-13, John 5:30-47

Wednesday 9/14

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Judges 18:16-30
Acts 8:14-25, John 6:1-15

Thursday 9/15

Psalm 133, 134, 135, Job 1:1-22
Acts 8:26-40, John 6:16-27

Friday 9/16

Psalm 140, 141, 143, Job 2:1-13
Acts 9:1-9, John 6:27-40

Saturday 9/17

Psalm 104, 137, 144, Job 3:1-26
Acts 9:10-19a, John 6:41-51

Sunday 9/18

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Job 4:1-6, 12-21
Revelation 4:1-11, Mark 6:1-6

Monday 9/19

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, Job 4-5:27
Acts 9:19-31, John 6:52-59

Tuesday 9/20

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Job 6
Acts 9:32-43, John 6:60-71

Wednesday 9/21

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Job 7:1-21
Acts 10:1-16, John 7:1-13

Thursday 9/22

Psalm 18, Job 8
Acts 10:17-33, John 7:14-36

Friday 9/23

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Job 9
Acts 10:34-48, John 7:37-52

Saturday 9/24

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Job 10
Acts 11:1-18, John 8:12-20

Sunday 9/25

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Job 11
Revelation 5:1-14
Matthew 5:1-12

Monday 9/26

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Job 12
Acts 11:19-30, John 8:21-32

Tuesday 9/27

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39, Job 12
Acts 12:1-17, John 8:33-47

Wednesday 9/28

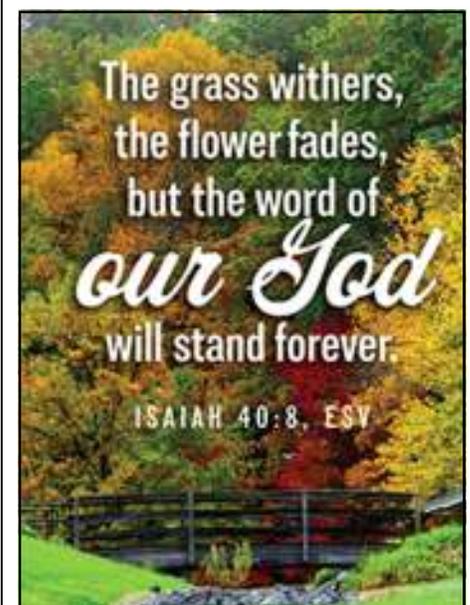
Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Job 12:1-14:22
Acts 12:18-25, John 9:1-17

Thursday 9/29

Psalm 37, Job 16:16-17:16
Acts 13:1-12, John 9:1-17

Friday 9/30

Psalm 31, 35, Job 19:1-27
Acts 13:13-25, John 9:18-41



Prayer

Casting Prayers

By Corinne Piper

Years ago, during a Lakeside Institute week, two of our teenagers led devotions that involved "Casting Prayers." It was a prayer time that stayed with many for years. "Casting prayer" works best around a body of water and since this is a time of year when many of us are relaxing around lakes, rivers, or the ocean, maybe it will be a prayer form that speaks to you. The following description comes from Prayer for People Who Can't Sit Still by William Tenny-Brittian.

1. If you are carrying sin, pain, confusion, or anxiety, take a marker to a place that gives you peace and has enough space to throw a rock, REALLY hard.
2. Spend time looking for the right rock while you think about your concerns.
3. Settle and become centered. Write your issues on the rock(s). Think about the causes, needs, and solutions to your thoughts, and make the rock you hold the embodiment of your problems.
4. Cast or throw that rock as far away from you as you can, and believe you are throwing that burden out of your life.
5. Now for the hard part, for those of us who can't sit still: SIT STILL! Attend to any emotions: freedom, loss, relief... Listen for God to tell you what to do now that the rock is out of your soul.
6. Wait for a few more minutes. Wait with an empty mind. Just sit with God.
7. If you still feel burdened, repeat the prayer sequence another time or on another day.

A variation of this prayer for those who are campfire types is to write your thoughts on paper and cast them into the fire. Feel your spirit rise with the smoke.

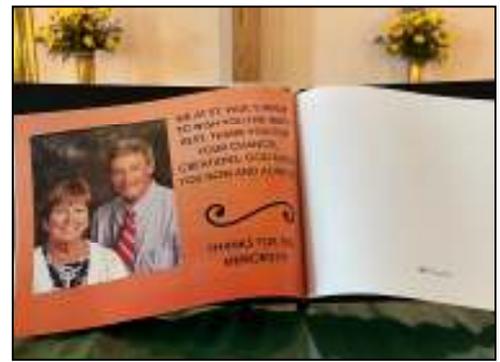
Putting our prayers into a concrete form and getting rid of that object is an effective way to feel the prayer. Try it out as you enjoy the last of this summer.

As you come back to church in the fall, join me for prayer at 9:30 AM Sundays in the Prayer Room as we intercede for those on our prayer lists.



Farewell

A recognition and farewell luncheon on August 14th. Many Blessings to the White Family as they move on to this new phase of retirement.



Thank You!

In the closing scene of the Wizard of Oz, the Wizard says to the Tin Man: "And remember, my sentimental friend, that a heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others." All of us in the Elida, Ohio White House were immensely touched and overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection and well-wishes during and after the Sunday service on August 14. It was both joyous and sad to reminisce over so many events and activities shared with so many friends and fellow parishioners at St. Paul these past 29 years. As the saying goes, one never truly knows how well he/she has it until it exists no more. While our membership at St. Paul has ended, the fond memories will live forever - we have been blessed and are grateful for our place in the community of St. Paul.

While our altar decorations have been a recent highlight, so many other challenges and opportunities come to mind when looking back: liturgist; Re-Focus; bell choir; ramps & roofs; committee work; service-time skits directed by past Choir Director Nancy Bushong; fair chairs; cantata narrator; Koinonia Class. While these events/activities, among others, helped us grow personally and spiritually, they also spoke to the outreach and fellowship that is Elida St. Paul!

Many thanks to Deb Hurd, Pastor Paul, and Jamie Wyant for our special recognition during the August 14 service. Many thanks to Judy Chaffins, Corinne Piper, the Worship Committee, and all others associated with the after-service carry-in and parting gifts. And we are equally thankful to those who sent cards or donated to the carry-in and offered well-wishes. To place a twist on Pastor Paul's Book of Daniel preaching this date, our membership with and participation in the community of St. Paul was 'the right thing to do' and has created fond and lasting memories.

We will miss you.....be well....Marty, Kathy, AJ, Nick, Kim, Emma, Julia, Tim, Katie, Jack, Drew, Anne (and Zack, Katie, Allison via Internet) White.

New address (effective 10/1/22):
 3146 Aspen Ln.,
 Twinsburg, OH 44087



Connecting With ...



National Night Out was held on August 2, in the Fieldhouse parking lot. Thank you to those who volunteered. We are seeking suggestions for next year on how best to represent St. Paul's while greeting those in our community. Contact Pastor Paul with your ideas.

The Children's Church Class sang with hand motions to "The Caterpillar Song" and "If Your Happy and You Know It" during the worship service on August 14.



To get a good start to school, Sunday, August 28, was the Blessing of the backpacks. The School and Health Kits were also blessed.



we received a check from the Brad Joseph Memorial Fund for \$785. These funds are available to children and adults wishing to go to camps or retreats. Contact Pastor Paul for further information.

The People of St. Paul's

Our Sympathy to Helen Staas and Family on the passing of Dillon on July 30th. Dillon was 93. Dillon and Helen were married for nearly 70 years. Rev. Dillon Staas III officiated the memorial service on August 4th. Dillon was known for his talent of writing poetry. Cards may reach Helen at Lochaven, 1640 Allentown Rd., Lima, Ohio 45805

*With
Deepest
Sympathy*

Condolences to the Grigg and Holmes families on the passing of Gage Holmes on August 1st. Gage was the grandson of Gary and Janet Grigg and great nephew to Don and Maedene Holmes. Cards may reach Grigg's at 317 Baxter St., Elida, OH 45807.

Sympathies to Carl Miller's Family. Carl passed away on August 22, he was 68. A memorial service will be held on September 1st with Pastor Paul officiating.

Our Condolences to Joyce Nichols and Family on the passing of Bill, on August 25. Bill was 97 and he and Joyce had been married for 76 years. The memorial service will be Tuesday, September 6 at 11:00 AM at Chamberlain Huckriede Funeral Home. Cards may be sent to Joyce at Kessler Estates 2075 Eastown Rd., Lima, OH 45807

St. Paul's,

Thank you very much for everything that was provided by everyone; Linda and Lois, for the music; The ladies, for all the food; Scott, Judy, and Jamie, for the sound and taping of the service. Last but not least, Gail for all you do for the church and for me. Thank you, also for the beautiful wind chimes!

Jean May, Karla May
Kelly and Dave Noonan
Karin and Mike Soddors, and Families

*Thank
You!*

Dear Friends from St. Paul,

Thank you all for your many expressions of sympathy. They were most comforting. Your wind chimes are ringing in the big round flower bed outside of our dining room window. You are all a blessing to us.

Lots of Love,
Janet and Gary Grigg

St. Paul's United Methodist Church Congregation,

Susan and I would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers that you sent Evelyn during her stay in long-term care at Otterbein. Thank you also for the flowers that you sent her while living in her Independent Living Home at Otterbein. We appreciate that the congregation kept her in their thoughts, sending her cards and letters after she moved from her "Little Red House on Diller Road". I know she missed attending and participating in church activities as she once was able.

Sincerely,
John and Susan Sarber

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Mexican Bake *By Jan Soddors*

Ingredients		Instructions
1/2 lb.	Hamburger	Cook hamburger. Cook rice. Add to the hamburger and rice: Green peppers, tomatoes, onion, black beans, taco seasoning, black olives. *If to dry, add small can of tomato juice. Pour ingredients into baking dish. Top with cheddar cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.
1 bag	Success boil in the bag Rice	
1 small	Green pepper, chopped	
1 can	Tomatoes, diced	
1 small	Onion, diced	
1 can	Black beans, rinsed and drained	
1 Tbl.	Taco seasoning	
1 small can	Black olives, sliced	
1 bag	Cheddar cheese, shredded	



Nacho Cheese Dip *By Sue Theodore*

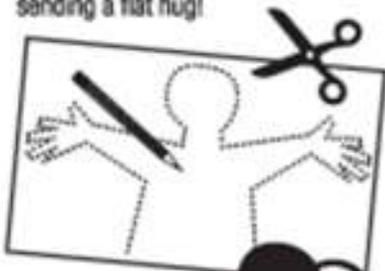
Ingredients		Instructions
2 lb.	Light Velveeta cheese, cubed	Stir together and heat until cheese is melted. Serve with tortilla chips.
2 lb.	Ground beef or sausage	
to taste	Jalapeno peppers, chopped	
1 tsp.	Chili powder	
1 jar, 16 oz.	Salsa (mild)	



KIDZ KORNER

Envelope EMBRACE

Show long-distance love to grandparents and other relatives by sending a flat hug!



What you need:

- Craft paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Envelope



What you do:

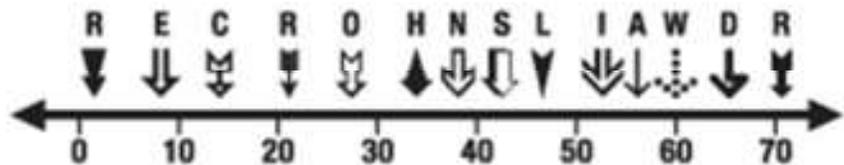
1. Roll out some craft paper (long enough to spread your arms across it).
2. Lie down on your back on the paper, with arms outstretched. Have someone trace around your arms, hands and head with a pencil.
3. Cut out the outline of your hug.
4. Draw your face and features on the paper. Use markers to color your hug to look like yourself. Write a note on the back.
5. Fold up and mail your two-dimensional hug to a loved one.



A full Quiver

Our heavenly Father loves families and has a special purpose for each generation.

Directions: Use the key to match the number of each arrow with the correct letter.



Like _____
56 21 71 28 60 42

in the hands of a warrior are

born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

PSALM 127:4-5, NIV

ANSWER: ARROWS, CHILDREN

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Ways to walk

If you think walking is boring or repetitive, read 52 Ways to Walk. Author Annabel Streets shares dozens of variations on this healthy pastime. From walking in the cold or at altitude to walking along a river or barefoot (or even backward!), each technique offers different benefits and new perspectives. Other ideas include a sensory walk, a silent walk, a foraging walk and singing while strolling. As Christians know, walking can be a great time to connect with God in prayer too.

Scripture speaks often about our spiritual walk: We are to walk “faithfully” with God (Genesis 5:24, NIV), walk “in all his ways” (Joshua 22:5, NRSV), walk “humbly” with God (Micah 6:8), walk “while you have the light” (John 12:35), walk while praising God (Acts 3:8), walk “by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7), walk “by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16) and walk “in the same way” as Jesus walked (1 John 2:6, NRSV).

As we walk — even through dark valleys — we’re never alone. God promises, “I will walk among you and be your God” (Leviticus 26:12, NIV).

—Stephanie Marti