

February 1, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior and Friend!

We thank you for your faithfulness, your service to others and your generosity over this past year. It is a privilege to serve among you. Thank you!

In-person Sunday morning worship is going well. Alongside it, we continue to offer worship via Facebook Live. Between in-person worship, online worship, and the hard copy bulletin delivered to your homes, we hope to keep everyone worshipping at St. Paul in a way that works best for you and your family.

Sunday School is now meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings at St. Paul. Senior and Junior High youth groups, along with Confirmation, meet in person on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Splash youth group meets Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m.

Last week we sent letters to all potential SALT (Summer Adult Leadership Training) interns, inviting them to apply for this life-changing summer internship. This 30 hour per week program is open to all St. Paul young adults who graduated from high school on or before 2020 up to age 25. If you have a child or a grandchild in this age range, please encourage them to apply.

Our Blessing Pantry continues to be staffed by volunteers on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30. The Pantry is also open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 p.m. We thank you for your generosity toward the Pantry—we have been able to keep it well stocked for our guests.

We are aware that the weekly worship packets have not been arriving on time. This is due to Covid19 infections at mail processing facilities. You can access the weekly bulletin on the St. Paul webpage: [www.stpaulnb.org](http://www.stpaulnb.org).

**Our Church Council slate for 2021 is not yet complete. We still need a Treasurer, a Junior Deacon, and a First Year Trustee. If you feel called to any of these positions, please call the church office, Roland Dicke or Myra Hanenkratt.**

We are seeking a volunteer with snow removal equipment who would be available for snow removal on weekdays on the west side of our property and on weekends for our parking lots. Please contact Roland Dicke or Myra Hanenkratt if you are interested.

Thank you for your faithfulness to St. Paul Church!

Grace and Peace,

  
Roland Dicke Myra Hanenkratt Becky Erb Strang Dee Schroer  
Council President Council VP Senior Pastor Associate Pastor

### Financial Information as of February 1, 2021

#### Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00  
Giving Income \$7,282.69(weekly)  
Endowment Transfers \$2,931.00(ytd)  
Income \$30,832.20(ytd)  
Expenses \$35,019.56 (ytd)  
Balance **(\$4,187.36)** (ytd)

#### Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37  
Income \$1,659.00 (ytd)  
Endowment Income \$0.00 (ytd)  
Expenses \$842.35 (ytd)  
Balance \$74,461.02 (ytd)

#### Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20  
Income \$1,720.00(ytd)  
Expenses \$1,485.84(ytd)  
Balance \$6,484.36  
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15  
Bless Pantry Inc. \$4,740.00(ytd)  
Bless Pantry Ex. \$770.33(ytd)  
BP Balance \$11,850.82

#### Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00  
Income \$245.00(weekly)  
Income \$2,832.00 (ytd)

#### Project of the Year

Income \$0.00(weekly)  
Balance \$824.00(ytd)

FEBRUARY 7, 2021  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY



*Jesus heals as he preaches and teaches.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people
Monday	Isaiah 40:21-31	The Lord gives strength
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	For the sake of the gospel
Wednesday	Psalms 41	A prayer in time of sickness
Thursday	James 5:13-18	Remember to pray
Friday	Proverbs 3:1-8	Trust God
Saturday	Psalms 147:1-11, 20c	Praise the Lord
Sunday	Mark 9:2-9	Transfiguration of Jesus

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[B]ut those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Everlasting God, you strengthen the powerless; send us out with your message of love and healing through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Isaiah 40:29)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you feed us with care and put rain upon the earth that your love we may share that gives all a new birth. Amen.

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

May the Lord renew your strength with wings like eagles, that you may run and not be weary, that you shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)



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FEBRUARY 7, 2021

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*O Christ, Your Heart,  
Compassionate*



### 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:

- Talk or think about a time you have felt sick or weary?
- When you or someone you know has been ill, what has helped the recovery?
- Jesus brings good news that is filled with acts of love that heals lives. What is something in your life that you would like healed?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Mark 1:29-39.

Does Jesus make a difference in this world or is he just a great guy with a sweet message and philosophy for a successful life? The world wants to know and the church needs to be able to answer in the affirmative: Yes, Jesus makes the difference for our world. This story from Mark 1 certainly believes it. The message that Jesus announces is more than words. It comes with actions that change lives. The hurts of the world find themselves at Jesus' feet again and again. Jesus doesn't have to go out and search for people in need. We all have a need for the kingdom that Jesus announces and lives. Demons are cast out, people are healed, Jesus prays, and his march forward into a world of need continues. Faith in Jesus is believing—at least wanting to believe—that Jesus makes the difference we need for hope and healing, peace and love. How does faith in Jesus make a difference in your world and the world of others?

*Pray:* **God of hope and healing, lead us into the world with good news that serves and loves others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE



Caring for the sick is a special way of showing Jesus' love. Think of someone you know who is in need of healing. Send that person a card to let them know you are thinking of them or call, if possible, and take time to brighten their day through conversation. Bring their needs to Jesus in prayer throughout the week.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Christians are a praying people. There are many traditions we can introduce into our homes to remind us to pray and to help make prayer a routine part of our lives. Jesus gives us a model for a faithful prayer life when he seeks out time to be alone in prayer (Mark 1:35-37). Set aside time to be alone in prayer this week to give God thanks and pray for Jesus' healing for others. Close your prayer time with the Lord's 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)





Jazz Funeral by Jon Guillaume

## **St. Paul United Church of Christ**

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New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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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 Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate 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.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Church**-On July 23, 2020 Governor DeWine mandated mask wearing in public, including houses of worship. Masks are essential to help keep those around us safe. Thank you for cooperating.

**February 7, 2021**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

### **Worship Leaders**

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Pastor Dee Schroer

Cheyenne Olt

Dick Hudson

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

Organist

PRELUDE

**GREETING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES:** As we light the altar and Christ candles, you are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MOMENT FOR MISSION: One Great Hour of Sharing**

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided a way to show God's love with neighbors in need around the world. Nine denominations and Church World Service join together in this offering. Through this offering, we are planting seeds of new life. Together, we are investing in communities world-wide providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

This offering is an opportunity for us to participate by giving gifts and supporting the good work that the offering does. It is one way that we show dignity and love to those in need.

Please give generously. Thank you, the Mission Team

**WELCOME SONG**

*No Matter*



# No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with the lyrics 'No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the'. The second staff continues with 'jour-ney of life; you're wel- come, wel- come in this place. No mat-ter'. The third staff repeats 'who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the'. The fourth staff concludes with 'jour-ney of life: ac- cept- ed, wel- comed by God's grace. grace.' and includes a double bar line with the instruction 'To verses' and 'Last time, Fine'.

Chords: F, Dm, Gm<sup>7</sup>, C, F, F<sup>7</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, F, Dm, G<sup>7</sup>, Gm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>7</sup>, F, Dm, Gm<sup>7</sup>, C, F, F<sup>7</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, F, Dm, Gm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>7</sup>, C, F, F.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 138:1-6, The Message by Eugene Peterson)

Leader: Thank you! Everything in me says, "Thank you!"

**People: Angels listen as we say our thanks. We kneel in worship, saying it again, "Thank you!"**

Leader: Thank you for your love; thank you for your faithfulness;

**People: Most holy is your name, most holy is your Word.**

Leader: When they hear what you have to say, O God, all earth's rulers will say, "Thank you!"

**People: They will sing of what you have done. And here is why:**

Leader: God knows us and loves us completely.

**People: Let us worship God!**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!* Verses 1 & 4

THE TRINITY

136 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

D Bm A7 D G  $\frac{A}{G}$  G  $\frac{A9}{G}$  D

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

$\frac{A}{C\#}$  D  $\frac{A}{C\#}$  Bm  $\frac{E7}{B}$   $\frac{A}{C\#}$  D  $\frac{A}{E}$  E7 A A7

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

D Bm A7 D G  $\frac{A}{G}$  G  $\frac{A9}{G}$  D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

Bm  $\frac{D7}{F\#}$  G D  $\frac{Em}{G}$  A7 D

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

WORDS: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)  
 MUSIC: John B. Dykes (1823-1876)

NICAEA  
 11.12.12.10.

## 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 (in unison)

(Jewish Prayer for Forgiveness, U.S.A., 20<sup>th</sup> Cent)

**Holy and awesome God, we stand in your presence filled with regret for our many sins and failings. Though there is greatness within us and a deep longing for goodness, we have often denied our better selves and refused to hear your voice calling us to rise to the full height of our humanity.**

**For there is weakness in us, as well as strength. At times we choose to walk in darkness, our vision obscured. We do not care to look within, and we are unwilling to look beyond at those who need our help.**

**O God, we are too weak to walk unaided. Be with us as a strong and wise friend, and teach us to walk by the light of your truth.**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: The Lord God is merciful and gracious, endlessly patient, loving and true, showing mercy to thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin and granting pardon. Amen.

## HALLELUJAH!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl Hal - le -

lu - jahl Hal - le - lu - jahl



## PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys:** Worshipping Together!

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Drew Wray, Deb Lear, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

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

Holy and gracious God, we come before you this day as your children—in need of your comforting touch and challenging word. We offer to you thanksgiving for your presence in our lives and we praise you for your steadfast love for your creation.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for food and home, family and friends. We offer prayers of thanksgiving for the healing of bodies and the distribution of vaccines. For we affirm this: you love us beyond measure and will hold us into the Light for all eternity.

We offer to you prayers of thanksgiving for our communities—that together we might work to eradicate hunger and poverty in our villages—spreading that message of hope to neighboring communities. Continue to empower us to see Jesus in our neighbors, in strangers, and even in our enemies.

We ask that you challenge us to serve you fully—not only when it is convenient or prudent. Challenge us to move beyond our comfort zones that we might offer your light to a world shadowed by darkness and brokenness.

We offer prayers of healing for those within our community, our nation, and our world who are in need of your healing touch and gentle hand. We offer prayers for health care workers and first responders. We offer prayers for teachers and aides. We offer prayers for grocery store clerks and other essential personnel in this time of sickness.

Holy God, often our hearts and our minds swirl in despair and confusion. Hear our prayers—even when we cannot form the words for prayer. Hear us now, in the silence that belongs to you.

**SILENCE.**

God of love, we thank you for the gift of your Spirit that hears us and heals us. We thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ who walks humbly with us. We thank you for the gift of community that, together, we might work for justice. This we pray with the prayer your son taught us praying...

**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: Psalm 119:105-107

(NRSV)

*Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.*

*<sup>106</sup> I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to observe your righteous ordinances.*

*<sup>107</sup> I am severely afflicted;  
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.*

ANTHEM

*Thy Word*

Amy Grant

(YouTube Search: Amy Grant *Thy Word* Lyric Video)

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*

*When I feel afraid  
Think I've lost my way  
Still you're there right beside me  
And nothing will I fear  
As long as you are near  
Please be near me to the end*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*

*I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide  
And hold me to your side  
I will love you to the end*

*Nothing will I fear as long as you are near  
Please be near me to the end*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
And a light unto my path  
You're the light unto my path*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 7:1-17 (The Message)

*When he finished speaking to the people, he entered Capernaum. A Roman captain there had a servant who was on his deathbed. He prized him highly and didn't want to lose him. When he heard Jesus was back, he sent leaders from the Jewish community asking him to come and heal his servant. They came to Jesus and urged him to do it, saying, "He deserves this. He loves our people. He even built our meeting place."*

*<sup>6-8</sup> Jesus went with them. When he was still quite far from the house, the captain sent friends to tell him, "Master, you don't have to go to all this trouble. I'm not that good a person, you know. I'd be embarrassed for you to come to my house, even embarrassed to come to you in person. Just give the order and my servant will get well. I'm a man under orders; I also give orders. I tell one soldier, 'Go,' and he goes; another, 'Come,' and he comes; my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

*<sup>9-10</sup> Taken aback, Jesus addressed the accompanying crowd: "I've yet to come across this kind of simple trust anywhere in Israel, the very people who are supposed to know about God and how he works." When the messengers got back home, they found the servant up and well.*

*<sup>11-15</sup> Not long after that, Jesus went to the village Nain. His disciples were with him, along with quite a large crowd. As they approached the village gate, they met a funeral procession—a woman's only son was being carried out for burial. And the mother was a widow. When Jesus saw her, his heart broke. He said to her, "Don't cry." Then he went over and touched the coffin. The pallbearers stopped. He said, "Young man, I tell you: Get up." The dead son sat up and began talking. Jesus presented him to his mother.*

*<sup>16-17</sup> They all realized they were in a place of holy mystery, that God was at work among them. They were quietly worshipful—and then noisily*

*grateful, calling out among themselves, “God is back, looking to the needs of his people!” The news of Jesus spread all through the country.*

## RESPONSE

Leader: The word of God for the people of God!

**People: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

I’ve traveled a fair amount in my lifetime, but I have a confession to make: I absolutely stink at geography. In school: high school, college and even seminary I would gloss over any readings that included geographical markers. They just never made enough sense to me and I arrogantly figured I didn’t need to know the geography to understand the text/story anyway.

That is my confession, but I AM getting better. And in terms of biblical texts, my two trips to Israel have helped enormously. In today’s New Testament Lesson, we hear of two different villages: Capernaum and Nain. I’ve been to Capernaum twice—a tiny village on the north end of the Sea of Galilee—it is the village that Jesus called home once he left Nazareth to begin his public ministry. If you were to read through the four gospels this afternoon you would find that Jesus performs a lot of miracles in and around Capernaum. Capernaum was also the home of nearly half of Jesus’ disciples, including Simon Peter.

Capernaum, as a word, means “City of Comfort” and I can fully imagine that Jesus’ presence in this tiny fishing village brought both comfort AND challenge to the residents.

In the first part of today’s reading, Jesus has just entered Capernaum. He is quickly approached by some Jewish elders who’ve been sent on behalf of a Roman captain, a Gentile whose servant was near death. Jesus agreed immediately to going to the officer’s house and was met partway there by the captain’s friends who told Jesus he did not expect the Messiah to come to his home, but just to heal his servant from afar.

Jesus, who heard this Gentile’s faith in Jesus’ ability to heal was amazed. And he even declared of his own religious kin, “I’ve yet to come across this kind of simple trust anywhere in Israel, the very people who



are supposed to know about God and how he works.” In no time at all, his servant was healed.

The second story in today’s reading takes place “not long after that”, but I did the math on this. The bringing back to life of the widow’s son took place in the village of Nain, some 12 ½ miles south of Nazareth and a full 34 miles from Capernaum. (Keep in mind that, in Jesus’s time, most people traveled by foot—and covering about 20 miles a day was considered the limit. So for Jesus to get from the seaside village of Capernaum to the more arid landscape beyond Jesus’ childhood hometown, he would have had to walk steadily for at least a day and a half.)

But that seems to be exactly what happened. Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd traveled to Nain. Before Jesus and his followers even got inside the city gates, a dead man was being carried out for burial followed by the grieving mother, and a large crowd of supporters. Jesus, deeply moved by the mother’s sorrow, went over to the litter carrying the body and said, “Young man, I tell you: Get up.”

Of course, you know how that turned out. The dead man sat up and began to speak. The scriptures tell us that the bystanders were both fearful and amazed by what had transpired. They began praising God and declaring Jesus to be a great prophet.

Both of the stories in our New Testament Lesson move us from death to life. Both of today’s stories begin with death or near death. It is almost as if we have been invited to a New Orleans Jazz Funeral.

A Jazz Funeral begins by playing solemn music and dirges for the one who has died—with musicians and mourners walking together to the cemetery. Then, once the last “amen” has been pronounced at the cemetery, the band breaks into joyful music of celebration and resurrection. There is even what is called the “Second Line”—the friends of the deceased who follow behind the family and band members. Once the celebratory music begins, the Second Line whip out colorful scarves, handkerchiefs, and umbrellas that become props in the joyous dance.

Both of our stories from Luke could have concluded with a Jazz Funeral’s air of celebration. In the first story, a Gentile officer is declared to have more faith than the Jews, thus bringing healing to his servant. In the second story, Jesus simply touches the funeral stretcher and says,

“Get up!” And what do you know? The young man sits up and begins to speak. Jesus joyfully presents him to his mother while the crowds have already shifted from their dirges to songs of joy.

In this second story, the mother did not ask for her son to be brought back to life. Nor do we hear that her faith brought about the miracle like we heard with the Roman captain. NOR do we hear any words of thanksgiving from the mother or son. Pure and simply, this miracle is one of un-earned and un-asked for grace.

Think for a moment about your own life. When have you experienced the miracle of unearned grace? When have you been suddenly thrust out of your mourning and into singing songs of joy? When has the risen Christ awakened you from your slumber?

This, my friends, is where the rubber meets the road. Jesus comes to us (every single one of us) with compassion in his eyes. When Christ meets and greets us, we can choose to wrap our funeral clothes even more tightly around ourselves OR we can throw aside our mourning clothes and begin to dance for joy. The choice is ours to make.

Let me say that again: you have the choice on how you can live your life: wrapped in sorrow and the dirges of mourning OR singing and dancing and offering joyful praises to God in the assurance that, because of Jesus, death never ever has the final say. Because of Jesus, we can experience life abundant right here, right now. For here is the deal: many of us choose the funeral dirge for our lives—choosing to focus on misfortune and bumps in the road and loss rather than celebrating the many blessings that are ours and ours to share with others.

Friends, hear me well: Last year and this year have been filled with death. It is right and proper that we grieve the loss of our loved ones, that we allow space for people to grieve. And yet: because of Jesus, our grief is layered with hope: hope in the resurrection. Hope in love winning the day. Hope in heaven here on earth and beyond the grave.

These scripture stories aren't just for you and for me. If we choose to dance and sing joyfully through life, we are called to do it in a way that welcomes others into the joyful celebration. We are called to feed the hungry, house the homeless, offer peace to those with hardened hearts and hope to those who cannot see beyond the next hour. In other words, we need to bring the Jazz Band everywhere we go and with everything

we do so that others will be restored by the love of God and join in the singing.

What can you do this week to bring joy to someone? What can you do this week to mend a broken relationship? What can you do this week to bring laughter—gut-busting laughter—back into your life?

Both of today's healing miracles came about in different ways. The captain's servant knew healing because of the faith of his master. The son of the widow knew life again simply because Jesus commanded it.

This tells us we need to approach our Christian journey in two different, yet complementary directions. First—we are called to place our entire trust and faith in God, knowing that he is in charge and that he loves each of us beyond measure. Second, we need to be open to unearned and unexpected grace. Just as sure as the snow will melt and spring flowers will emerge, so too does God's grace shower upon us when we least expect it and when we have done nothing to make it happen. Again—because God loves you and me and all of humankind (and all of creation) beyond measure.

So this is my challenge to you today: Live today fully. Welcome the grace that knocks on your door and upon your funeral dirge. Accept new life in Christ Jesus from this moment forward. And, do not forget to pack your party clothes: for you never know when Jesus will show up and turn the funeral procession into a street party of joy. Amen.

ANTHEM

*When the Saints Go Marching In*

(YouTube Search: new orleans jazz music *when the saints go marching in*)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: God tells us over and over in the Bible not to be afraid. Our gifts we offer to God through the ministries and missions of St. Paul Church are one way that we trust God even in a world that keeps telling us to be afraid. We let go of thinking that we are on our own, and live each day in graceful dependence on God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

## DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you, not with our lips only, but with our whole lives, turning the duties, sorrows, and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice to you. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the risen Christ. Amen.**

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION

Leader: Friends in Christ, we are invited to this table of grace by Jesus himself. We have done nothing to earn our place at the table and yet here we are. It is not what we do that makes us worthy of this meal; it is the saving acts of the risen Christ that welcome us here. Let us pray.

### COMMUNION PRAYER (unison)

**With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name. Amen**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: On the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus ate a Passover meal with his disciples. At that meal, he took bread, blessed and broke it saying, “This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Leader: In the same way he took the cup after supper saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do that as often as you drink it for the forgiveness of sins.” The gifts of God for the people of God! All things are now ready.

## DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND CUP



## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Send us out to live as changed people because we have shared the bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory and serve you joyfully. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION:** Let us go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good and render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. 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

## POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Attendance**-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-118, January 24-Sunday Worship Online-365, In Person-57, Sunday School Online-185, In Person 22, Teachers-7, Splash-6, Leaders-2, January 27-Confirmation-12, Leaders-14, Youth Group-8, Leaders-2

**Daily Devotions**-Please join Rev Becky or Pastor Dee Monday-Friday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

**Zoom Bible Study**-join us Thursday's at 6:30pm. Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on or logging onto:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88640093949?pwd=ZllqSDBpZzdzZi9LT0d6SThwbltZz09>      **Meeting ID: 886 4009 3949**      **Passcode: 344973**

\*If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: [berbstrang@stpaulnb.org](mailto:berbstrang@stpaulnb.org)

**Sundays in February-Sunday School** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 9:00am. **Worship** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am.

**Bulletin Availability-weekly bulletins** are available for download on our website [stpaulnb.org](http://stpaulnb.org). Just click the yellow **BULLETINS** box in the upper right hand corner.

**2021 Altar Flower Chart** has been posted in the Narthex. To sign up for the date(s) you would like. Please call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you. Open dates the rest of the year **February 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, December 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Women's Service Group**-The Women's Service Group is planning to send fifty school kit bags to Church World Service this coming summer. The supplies for the bags are all purchased but what is needed

is persons willing to help sew the school bags. Material and directions on how to sew them is available. If interested, please contact Joyce Gilberg for more information.

**Blessing Pantry**-is located in the North Hallway and accessible by the North door 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-Paper Plates, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Napkins, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Diapers (size 5&6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Vaseline, Bandages, Shampoo, Bar Soap, Hand/Body Soap, Hand/Body Lotion, Tampons & Panty Liners, Cleaning Supplies, Storage Bags, Garbage Bags and Pet Food. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

**Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021** We will be hosting an Open House from 6:00pm-7:30pm as our Ash Wednesday Service this year. The Open House will consist of Prayer, Hymns, Scriptures, Imposition of Ashes and Communion. Please join us. All are Welcome!

**February Book Club**-will discuss Marilynne Robinson's Gilead. We were slated to discuss Gilead in March of 2020 but the pandemic hit, we cancelled and we have had requests to revisit. Discussion will be February 28 at 4:00pm via Zoom. Copies of the book can be picked up at the church office or you can contact the church office if you need a copy sent or delivered to you. All are welcome. Zoom information: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85110467493?pwd=cXBSNEdxOW5oOEIxdnhnVjVVZnNqZz09>

**Meeting ID: 851 1046 7493**

**Passcode: 395678**

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**January/February Upper Rooms**-have arrived! They are available at the East entrance to the education building. Or please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

**Mailbox**-There is a mailbox outside of the East Educational Building door for any correspondence you may have for the church and would like to drop off. Please lift the flap and drop through the slot on the top. The box is locked and will be checked often. Thank you!

### **Calendar-Week of February 7, 2021**

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School-in person & via Facebook Live
	10:15am	Worship-in person & via Facebook Live
	5:00pm	Splash-in person
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop w/Rev Becky New Bremen Coffee Inc.
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	7:00pm	Church Council
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:30pm	Confirmation-in person w/Mentors
	6:30pm	Jr/Sr High Youth Group-in person
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:30pm	Bible Study via Zoom
Friday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	Afternoon	Office Closed



**E-Giving @ St. Paul**  
**3 Different Ways to Give**

**Online** – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org

**Give+ App** – Search “Give Plus Church” in your App store and find St. Paul to Get Started!

**Text** – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048  
St. Paul New “Text to Give” #(# changed as of 10/9/19)

**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.  
Thank you for donating \$ (amount)! Text repeat to make this recurring  
or refund to cancel this donation.