

April 19, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Risen Christ who calls us his friends.

As a gentle reminder, we ask that if you plan to worship in the sanctuary, please remain masked for the duration of the service in order that we might keep each other safe. Thank you.

Pastor Becky is a week in of her three weeks of sabbatical. Pastor Dee is on medical leave. Abby Bushman is serving as our Ministry Assistant; she is helping with Sunday School as well as assisting Barb in the office.

If you have pastoral care needs during Becky's time off, please contact the church office 419-629-2502.

While Pastor Becky takes time off, Daily Devotions will not take place. They will pick back up May 3 when she returns.

Thank you to all who donated and shopped St. Paul Church Rummage Sale. Approximately \$1500 was raised for Project of the Year: The Blessing Pantry.

We received a donation for Community Garden dirt. If you have time and equipment to pick up the dirt, deliver and place into the garden beds, please let us know.

Thank you for your faithfulness to St. Paul Church! Together we are the Body of Christ in this community.

Grace and Peace,



Roland Dicke
Council President



Myra Hanenkratt
Council VP

Financial Information as of April 19, 2021

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$11,177.59 (weekly)
Endowment Transfers \$10,124.00(ytd)
Income \$99,434.61 (ytd)
Expenses \$99,255.24 (ytd)
Balance \$179.37 (ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37
Income \$6,025.00(ytd)
Endowment Income \$1,556.01(ytd)
Expenses \$3,397.29 (ytd)
Balance \$77,828.09 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20
Income \$5,751.00 (ytd)
Expenses \$5,022.25 (ytd)
Balance \$6,978.95
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15
Bless Pantry Inc. \$11,116.00(ytd)
Bless Pantry Ex. \$2,627.53(ytd)
BP Balance \$16,369.62

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$1,349.00(weekly)
Income \$9,279.00 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$74.00(weekly)
Balance \$1,371.00(ytd)

Service Project-For St. Paul United Church of Christ and Sweet Area Peeps: Are you looking for a meaningful service/mission project for your young people ages 7-17. Raising Men/Raising Women Lawn Care is a program for young people to mow the lawns of veterans, people with disabilities, the elderly and single parents for free. When you sign up for this program, you will receive a free t-shirt. For every 10 lawns you mow, you will receive another color of a shirt. At 50 lawns, the founder comes to your home and gifts you with a new lawn mower and weed whacker. The program also covers raking of leaves and shoveling snow.

This is an awesome way to give back to our community. (And looks great on college applications and job resumes.)

St. Paul Church will help you find folk's lawns to mow. Or if you need someone to mow your lawn, let us know.

Please pass the word! For more information on the program visit www.weareraisingmen.com and the video <https://youtu.be/WHH3KmnUjTU>

APRIL 25, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



As Jesus shepherds us, we shepherd one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
Monday	Acts 4:5-12	Peter and John before the council
Tuesday	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
Wednesday	Genesis 49:22-28	Jacob blesses his sons
Thursday	Mark 6:30-44	Jesus the compassionate shepherd
Friday	Ezekiel 34:20-31	God the true shepherd
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God, we thank you for pursuing us with your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives through Christ, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, as a shepherd you provide us with daily food; give us the faith and love to care that others have daily food on their tables, too. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus the Good Shepherd pursue you with goodness and mercy all the days of your life.



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APRIL 25, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Savior, like a Shepherd
Lead Us*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does a shepherd do?
- What does Jesus do to shepherd us?
- How can we shepherd fellow Christians in the faith and in daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 3:16-24.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as the Good Shepherd Sunday. John 10 and Psalm 23 give clear attention to this shepherd theme. However, so does 1 John 3. Just as Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11), so we as brothers and sisters who follow Jesus are to lay down our lives for one another (1 John 3:16). We lay down our lives—we shepherd one another—by loving one another “in truth and action”—not just words (v. 18). We, as fellow shepherds, abide in the Good Shepherd by believing in Jesus Christ and loving one another with our whole being. As we give thanks for Jesus as the Good Shepherd, we also give thanks that we are surrounded by a community of faith that shepherds one another to believe in Jesus Christ and to lay down our lives for one another. Why is it important that Christians not only care for the needs of the world but also care for each other as followers of Jesus Christ?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, strengthen us in faith and love to shepherd one another to live with hope and good courage through Christ, the Good Shepherd. Amen.**

SERVICE

Be a servant this week by shepherding someone. Make a visit and listen to the person. Read Psalm 23 together. Talk about what it means to have Jesus as our shepherd and close with the Lord's Prayer.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. There will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:16) If there are children in your home, play “Follow the Leader.” Blindfold the followers and have the leader guide them by using only their voice. Think about what it means to listen to Jesus' voice and to follow him as sheep of the Good Shepherd.



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



St. Paul United Church of Christ

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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 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, Welcome, one and all, to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

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.

April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Roland Dicke

Cheyenne Olt

Julia Mullins

The Congregation

Council President

Guest Speaker/Accompanist/Vocalist

Liturgist

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

No mat-ter who, — no mat-ter what — no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life; you're wel- come, wel- come in this place. — No mat-ter
who, — no mat-ter what, — no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life: ac - cept- ed, wel- comed by God's grace. grace.

[To verses] [Last time, Fine]

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 108:1-4)

Leader: Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!

People: We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!

Leader: We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples. We will sing praises to you among the nations.

People: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the crowds.

Leader: Gathered or scattered, O God, we worship you with joy!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Good Christians All, Rejoice

verses 1 & 4

Good Christians All, Rejoice 307

C G Am Em C F Dm G C F $\frac{G7}{D}$ C $\frac{Am}{C}$

1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is risen to - day; death's might - y stone is
 3 We praise in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life, which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

$\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ D G C F Em Dm $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Dm}{F}$ G C

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way: let ev - ery tongue re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Refrain

C G Am F G D $\frac{G}{B}$ G7 Am $\frac{Dm}{F}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ G C

"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!"

WORDS: Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955)

MUSIC: Melchior Vulpius (1560-1615)

GELOBT SEI GOTT

8.8.8. Alleluias

SERVICE OF CONFESSION

Leader: We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

People: Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us. Heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: This saying is sure and worthy of acceptance—that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross that we might all be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

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

The musical score is written for four staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl. The first staff has a common time signature 'C' above it. The second staff has chord markings 'C', 'Am7', and 'D7' above it. The third staff has chord markings 'C', 'D', 'G', 'D', and 'Em' above it. The fourth staff has a '7' above the first measure. The music consists of a melody line and a bass line.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Joy in the resurrection of Jesus and the new life he gives to each of us.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Ethel Mesloh (JTDMH), Ryan Birt, Annabelle Wenning, Peg Henschen, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

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

Eternal God, we praise you that your glory has dawned on us and brought us to this Easter season. We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son and that he has conquered death, risen to rule over all the powers of this earth.

We praise you that Christ summons us into new life, to follow him with joy and gladness. By your Spirit, lift us from doubt and despair and set our feet in Christ's holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life and that all we have may show forth his love.

Healer God, we lift up to you in prayer all who are hurting, all who are grieving, all who are injured, sick or recuperating. We name those for whom we pray in the silent recesses of our hearts and we pray also for those whose names we do not know.

Gentle God, we ask that your resurrection light pour upon our communities, our nation, and our fragile world. Continue to challenge us to offer peace in a world so divided.

Forgiving God, we thank you and praise you that you call us to new life in Christ each and every day. We thank and praise you that, through Jesus, our past is over and we can begin to live in your Light this day.

Whispering God, we humbly ask you to hear us now as we lift up to you our prayers. We also ask you to quiet our busy minds that we might hear your good news for us this day. SILENCE

All of this we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM (Special Music)

Tim Olt, tuba

Two Bourees for Unaccompanied Cello from Suite Three

Bach

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 8:26-39

(NRSV)

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

*"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.*

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

RESPONSE

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

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

MEDITATION

Cheyenne Olt

When I first began to dive into today's scripture and research its significance, I was both fascinated and terrified. Fascinated, because I love to research; terrified, because I wanted to make an impact but had no idea how. I was fascinated with God's word, but terrified of sharing it.

I couldn't seem to silence the little voice in my head that kept telling me, "You must be crazy! No one cares what you have to say. Who are YOU to go up there and speak?" Now, I've never been one with positive self-talk, but these questions riddled me with doubt before I had even put pen to paper.

Then, I realized. Everyone has this voice somewhere within them. Perhaps the Holy Spirit was guiding me, nudging me to help others realize the real question God wants us to ask is not "Who am I to go and preach?" but rather, "Who am I NOT to?" Each of us has something of worth to offer, no matter how insignificant it may seem. Each of us has a gift from the Holy Spirit to share.

With these thoughts in mind, let's see just how today's scripture relates to this message of hope and worth by examining both the story itself and its historical significance.

A key term to understand as we discuss the reading is the word, "eunuch". Now, a eunuch is someone who was seen as neither male nor female. Although they could act as highly placed officials, they were also seen as outsiders and excluded from the church.

This passage emphasizes the eunuch as someone who is different, repeating the term five times. It is clear that the author wants us to know this person was someone held at arm's length by the current church.

Eunuchs were not allowed to be full Jews, even if they worshipped God, and even if they were fairly wealthy and powerful. This story of the Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts shows us the first true Gentile Christian and his baptism.

Since this story comes shortly after the famous Pentecost story, it is likely that this particular eunuch's baptism and conversion directly led to the spread of the gospel in Ethiopia itself! One single person, this eunuch, viewed as not even a full person, brought Christianity to another country. That is truly miraculous, and a testament to our worthiness in God's eyes.

In fact, Christianity remains a powerful force in Ethiopia today. Unlike other African countries, Ethiopia survived the expansion of Islam. Ethiopia is part of the Coptic church of Egypt in modern times; in addition, its bible is considered the largest and most complete bible in the world.

All of this happened because Philip took the time to talk to a person excluded from society, in many ways viewed as a half person. He baptized a person who could never have been baptized through his own religion before. He washed away this eunuch's imperfections and impurities, just as God does with all of us every day.

How many times in life do we question our worthiness? Our use? What good am I, God, when others are so much better, or stronger, or smarter, or kinder than I am? Who am I to carry out Your Will, Your Word?

People around the world, and right here in New Bremen too, live with these questions on a daily basis. Whether due to oppression, racism, sexism, depression, anxiety, or just plain old insecurity, we question ourselves and talk ourselves out of God's calling. We must remember not only how God views us as his instruments worthy of love and purpose. Not only this, but we must also remember how He views our neighbors, our friends, and even our enemies--we are all children of God. We must remember His love, just as Philip did when he approached the Ethiopian eunuch.

It is not easy to remember this. It is even harder to practice this love. We exclude others, perhaps not even consciously, for being different from ourselves and what we consider to be "normal" or "natural". Help us, O God, to participate in the radical acceptance of the Gospel. The radical friendship Philip displays, the radical inclusive love of Jesus. Let us love one another the way you love each and every one of us, O God. We strive to be like you in our treatment of others.

As Ramana Maharsi once said after being asked how we should treat others, let us always remember this: "There are no others." Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING SENTENCES: What an abundance of gifts we have to offer: musical talent, the melody of laughter, the use of our hands in cooking and repairs, the use of our minds in problem solving, curiosity, compassion, patience, urgency, spiritual reservoirs, financial resources,

obedience and the courage to act. All these gifts, and others which bear our personal marks, are symbolized in our offering for the work of St. Paul Church. Let us commit ourselves in service as we worship God with our offerings.

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)

Living God, you have given us so much in Jesus Christ: hope, joy and peace. Above all, you have given us life! What can we give in return? If the whole world were ours, it would not be enough. What little we have we humbly offer to you. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Christ Is Alive

Verses 1, 3 & 5

Christ Is Alive!

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers, still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age; till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION: May the great Ruler of all high places, the God of many names, touch you with a wind that keeps you strong, for all the days to come. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Pass the Love

Pass the Love

♩=95

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 C7

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

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb 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: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pass the peace of Christ with one another.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Everett and Barbara Schmidt by Sue and Lester Schmackers.

Thank You-Pastor Dee would like to extend a big Thank You to all who have reached out to her. She really appreciates the cards and texts.

Attendance-April 11-Sunday Worship Online-166, In Person-48, Sunday School Online-99, In Person 18, Teachers-5, Splash-3, Leaders-3.

Daily Devotions-Are paused until Monday, May 3 at 11:30.

Sundays in April-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. Just click the yellow **BULLETINS** box in the upper right hand corner.

2021 Altar Flower Chart has two dates available **August 22nd & 29th**. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like or call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you.

May/June 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.

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 will be checked often. Thank you!

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, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Hand Soap, Cleaning Supplies, Diapers (newborn-6), Toilet Paper, Baby Wipes, Storage Bags, Garbage Bags and Dry Pet Food. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: The Hills are Alive! Templed Hills

Nestled in the rolling landscape of central Ohio, Templed Hills offers a sacred space beloved by generations. A place for spiritual growth and fun! Stewarded by the churches of the Ohio Conference, Templed Hills is a place for people of all ages to be able to connect with God in nature. As our April Mission project, we would like you to pray fully consider donating to “The Hills are Alive” campaign to give our current and future generations a special place to learn and grow with God!

Thanks, Mission Team

Calendar-Week of April 25, 2021

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School-in person & via Facebook Live
	10:15am	Worship-in person & via Facebook Live
Monday	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop Hours
Tuesday	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	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.