

November 29, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus who is born among us as Immanuel: God With Us!

Yesterday we celebrated the start of Advent and Dee Schroer's ministry amongst us as we end her time as our Associate Pastor. The worship service was Spirit-filled and we thank you for your participation in worship via the worship packet, online worship, or in the sanctuary.

Sarah Kramer has worked diligently to coordinate the planning, packing, and distribution of Advent Bags. This year's bags will **not** include Advent candles. We encourage you to find candles at home to light throughout the Advent season. We thank Sarah for all her hard work to make this project a success. If you have not received a bag, please contact the church office.

This coming Sunday, December 5, we will hold a congregational meeting near the end of the worship service to elect Council members for 2022 and to approve the 2022 operating budget. A copy of the proposed budget was included in last week's mailer/packet. Please contact the church office if you need a copy.

This Advent/Christmas seasons St. Paul will not be sponsoring specific families in the community for Christmas gifts. Our staff simply does not have the allotted time to coordinate this project. However, if you would like to provide local families with assistance, you can drop gift cards at the church office. We recommend WalMart, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Aldi and Kroger.

We will distribute these cards to families no later than mid-December. Thank you for your generosity and your understanding.

We end with a reminder about Covid19 transmissions. Incidences of positive cases are going up in our congregation and community. **If you have been in contact with someone who either tests positive for Covid19 or have been in contact with someone who soon after tests positive, you need to quarantine yourself from St. Paul Church, its building, and its staff.**

It is our goal to keep one another (and our neighbors) as healthy as possible. What's more, if essential staff become infected, we will be forced to shut down worship, weekly mailers and all programs for two weeks. We thank you for your attention and care. We know it is difficult to stay home. Isolation is hard. And yet, it is our Christian calling to care for one another in the best way possible.

We thank you for your faithfulness. We thank you for your generosity. We thank you for your love for God and neighbor.

Blessings,

Roland Dicke
Strang
Council President
Pastor

Myra Hanenkratt
Council VP

Rev. Becky Erb
Senior

Financial Information is unavailable due to staff vacation.



Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones (Advent 2)

December 5, 2021

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of new life, you showed Ezekiel that you have the ability and willingness to restore Israel to new life. We ask that you restore us, too, to new life filled with abundant blessings and gratitude. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

"Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." (Ezekiel 37:9)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Israel was dead—or so it seemed. God showed Ezekiel that, like dry bones restored to life, Israel could and one day would be restored to life.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What vital part of you is dead or dying? What needs to happen for that part of you to be brought back to life?

For the littles: Have you ever known someone that died? What was that like?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God breathe new life into you. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Register to become an organ donor (your local DMV), a blood donor (Red Cross or Memorial Blood Bank), and bone marrow donor (Be The Match).



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.

Sunday, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones

Monday, Ezekiel 1:1-14, The Vision of the Chariot

Tuesday, Ezekiel 1:15-28, The Vision of the Chariot

Wednesday, Ezekiel 2:1-3:11, The Vision of the Scroll

Thursday, Ezekiel 40:1-19, The Vision of the New Temple

Friday, Ezekiel 40:20-37, The Vision of the New Temple

Saturday, Ezekiel 40:38-47, The Vision of the New Temple



St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New

Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Becky Strang-Senior Pastor

Roland Dicke-Council President

Welcome to St. Paul UCC, we are glad you are here!!

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, this is the house of the Lord, and all are welcome to enter and praise our loving Creator.

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

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Congregational Meeting

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Katie/Leif/Layla Dietrich

Cheyenne Olt

Jim Strang

Neal Voress Family

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Liturgist

Accompanist

Bell Choir Director/Music Director

Advent Candle Lighters

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF CANDLES: You are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION-The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank you" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated. The Mission Team

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

Leader: Come into God's house with a hope and a promise:

People: Despite the darkness, the light awaits us.

Leader: Despite what looks like the end,

People: Restoration and new life can be found here.

ADVENT

176 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

C G7 C C F G7 C G/B Am G/B
D E D

1 Lift up your heads, O mighty gates: behold, the
2 Fling wide the portals of your heart: make it a
3 Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to
4 So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and

Csus C Dm C Dm C G G/B D G G/B
F E

King of glory waits! The King of kings is
temple set apart from earthly use for
you: here, Lord, abide! Let me your inner
nobler life begin! Your Holy Spirit

C G/D D7 G G/F C C Dm C Dm C G7 C
D E F G

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel: your grace and love in me re - veal.
guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

SERVICE OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Leader: It is Advent. It is the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace. We come to this time of confession—admitting before God and one another that we do not live in peace.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: We confess to you the ways in which we block the peace of Christ.

People: God of peace, hear our prayer.

Leader: The rushing, the scurrying to get things done,

People: We confess to you, O God of peace.

Leader: The worry about the little details,

People: We confess to you, O God of peace.

Leader: The financial burdens we put on ourselves,

People: We confess to you, O God of peace.

Leader: The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another,

People: We confess to you, O God of peace.

Leader: The bickering and quarreling we get into because we are too busy,

People: We confess to you, O God of peace.

Leader: Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of year, your peace is always there for us.

People: Instill within us your peace, O God.

Leader: When we feel overwhelmed,

People: Instill within us your peace, O God.

Leader: When we are filled with worry,

People: Instill within us your peace, O God.

Leader: When we become irritable,

People: Instill us with your peace, O God.

Leader: Instill within us your peace, O God. Instill within us your peace and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you. Help us to be more peaceful so that we may spread Christ's peace and love with others. Amen.

RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (chorus)

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The image shows a musical score for the chorus of 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some longer notes and rests. There are some decorative flourishes and ties in the bass line.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: PEACE

Reader One: Just as Ezekiel saw a world of violence, despair, injustice, and unfairness, so we too see the dry bones filling the valleys of this pandemic-weary and war-weary world.

Reader Two: But God sets forth a light of peace, delivering flesh to bare bones, bringing workers for harmony and justice in places of discord and strife.

Reader One (as first candle is lit): We light the first candle of hope, trusting that hope for a savior remains.

Reader Two (as second candle is lit): And we light the second candle, believing that God's Son might usher in a new order, where lion and lamb lie peaceable together.

RESPONSE

When God Is a Child

Verse 2

When God Is a Child

Refrain
C G7 C C Em7 Am G

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the

a tempo

C Am7 D7 G C/E Am Dm7 G7

weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -

1-3 C 4 C Am E

fraid.

1	Hope	is	a	star	that
2	Peace	is	a	rib - bon	that
3	Joy	is	a	song	that
4	Love	is	a	flame	that

fraid.

1-3 4

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936-)

MUSIC: John Carter (1930-)

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

GATES
Irregular

Am G7/B C C#dim7 G/D Em Am rit. D7 G *to Refrain*

shines in the night, lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright. When
cir - cles the earth, giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth. When
wel - comes the dawn, tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born. When
burns in our heart, Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part. When

rit.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: The wedding of Hannah Blanke and Matt Shellabarger on December 4. Congratulations Hannah & Matt.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Julia Paul, Susan (Topp) Wicker, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jan Dammeyer, Scott Kuenning, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

Holy God, on this second Sunday of Advent, it seems as if this year things are different from years' past. And yet, we are awed by your presence in our lives—especially when we realize we already possess all the gifts we need, we've already received our presents: ears to hear music, eyes to behold lights, hands to build true peace on earth and to reach out to each other in love.

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, we turn towards you as flowers turn towards the sun and we produce fruit shaped by this attitude of our hearts and our lives.

Yet we can be so driven by seasonal busy-ness that our fruitfulness suffers. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

On this day when we celebrate the Peace found in Christ, we place our trust in you. Shed us of our wandering ways. Remind us that we cannot purchase our way into happiness or purchase your love. Fill us with hope beyond anything we can purchase or place under a tree. Spark us with the hope found in the coming birth of the Christ Child.

In this season of anticipating, of waiting, of expectation, we lift up in prayer all those who are awaiting the return of loved ones: particularly those who are deployed overseas. We ask that you be with all loved ones who are separated from one another—offering them hope and grace.

In this season of healing carols, we lift up to you all who are hurting this season: physically, mentally, spiritually. Pour your healing light on each, O God. And fill us with your courage to offer your light into the dark corners of our world.

Holy One, hear us now as we lift up to you our prayers. SILENCE

God of Peace, we thank you for this day. We thank you for the gift of Christ. We thank you for gathering us as a community of peace and grace. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung to the tune of *Away in a Manger*)

Creator in heaven, all praise to your name!

Your kingdom among us, your will done the same.

By mortals and angels, come, Lord, reign alone!

O hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for, provide it each day

As we forgive others, our sins take away.

In times of temptation, to lead us be near.

From evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign;

And yours is the glory, all things you maintain

To you be the glory, resounding again

From all of creation, forever! Amen!

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

ADVENT OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14

A Dramatic Reading of the Text. Readers: Ezekiel & God

Ezekiel: The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley. It was full of bones. He led me all around them. There were very many bones lying in the valley and they were very dry. God said to me,

God: "Mortal, can these bones live?"

Ezekiel: I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me,

God: "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath into you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

Ezekiel: So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me,

God: "Prophecy to the breath, O mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

Ezekiel: I prophesied as he commanded me, and they breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me,

God: "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act."

RESPONSE

Grace, Flow From Above

verse 2

Grace, Flow From Above

November 28 through December 19, 2021

Word and Music by
J. L. Salt(er)

Grace, flow from a - bove. Show your ho - ly love.

Save us from the fire that burns, O Lord, whom we a - dore.

Bring life to our bones. Make us all your own.

introduction

Let us drink your grace and truth so we may thirst no more.

11/28 "My plans for you are not to cause you pain.
12/5 Your ho - ly words could make the dead bones live!
12/12 We seek you, Lord. Speak words to teach your ways.
12/19 In - to the dark, there came a ho - ly light!"

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001

I'll hear your call, I'll bring you home a - gain!
Your spir - it comes and Lord, new life you give.
Help us to walk with you for all our days.
Word be - came flesh in glo - ry and in might!

Grace, flow from a - bove. Show your ho - ly love.

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Last week's advent scripture came from Jeremiah—during the time of the Babylonian Exile. In that text, God commanded the prophet Jeremiah to tell the people in exile to settle in, making themselves at home in this foreign country.

Today's reading from Ezekiel was also written from the time of the Babylonian Exile. In this text, the prophet Ezekiel has a vision of dry, dead bones and are brought back to life by the power of God via the power of Ezekiel's preaching.

Ezekiel's message was certainly pertinent to his times. The people of Israel who had been stolen from their homeland and taken as slaves to Babylon must have undoubtedly felt as if their lives, their faith, was nothing but dry, dead bones. Clearly, the exiles needed Ezekiel's words of hope in the midst of slavery and despair and generation's long homesickness.

What's interesting about this particular passage is that, in most lectionary cycles, it is read primarily on Pentecost—as an echo/foretelling of the Holy Spirit filling the people with the breath of God. Today's scripture is also occasionally read on Easter Sunday—serving as a reminder that death never, ever has the final say since God is in charge.

Dry bones. Nearly two years into this global pandemic, my guess is that most of us are experiencing dry bones. We have lost many to death. Others we know and love are dealing with long-term ramifications from the coronavirus. Many of us have had our jobs disappear or altered radically. Many of us have experienced deep isolation these past months. Many of us have had our mental health impacted by the constant fear of the unknown. Yes. We as a community, as a nation, as global citizens, understand dry bones.

But today's story doesn't end with death and bones scattered across the desert. It ends with God raising up those bones, placing muscle and flesh and skin upon them—filling them with his breath/wind/Spirit. After that, God promises the exiles that he would restore their lives/restore their homeland.

And what of us? Do we really, truly believe that God will restore our lives and livelihoods? Do we trust Jesus' resurrection promises now that the going has gotten painful and difficult? Recently, my therapist told me

that many of her clients during this pandemic have lost their hope—and that never before in her career has she dealt with this much hopelessness. Have we, too, lost our hope?

Perhaps that is why this passage from the prophet Ezekiel is so important for us to hear during Advent. We, who are living without hope, who feel our future is incredibly uncertain, are reminded that, during these weeks, we are awaiting the birth of a baby. And not just any baby—this Babe is the Son of God, born to a young woman.

For this we know instinctively—babies and children given us hope for the future. They remind us that, despite all the terror in our lives, that life goes on. Lullabies will be sung. Diapers will be changed. Cuddles will melt the hearts of even the toughest cookies. The birth of children reminds us that, despite all that is going on in our world, life will continue.

As Christians, we also affirm that Baby Jesus didn't stay a baby—he grew into a man who lived and loved and healed and forgave. He died the death of a common criminal—taken down by both church and state. And then, three days later, he rose as a living, breathing Spirit-filled reminder that death and dry bones and pandemics and war will never have the last word. With God in charge, life and love will always win. Always.

Two of my favorite poets:

i who have died am alive again today. —e e cummings

Practice resurrection. —Wendell Berry

In closing, I share with you a story. When I led worship at Elmwood earlier in the fall, one of the residents told me the story of her mother's death. Her family grew up in New Bremen and she had a younger sister. She and her sister attended Sunday School at St. Paul each week. When their mom became catastrophically sick, they continued to go to Sunday School.

One Sunday, their mom died while the little girls were at church. When they arrive at home, their father told his daughters that their mother had died. The woman's little sister, without missing a beat said, "Mom is dead, but Jesus is alive."

That, my dear ones, is what resurrection faith looks like: it moves past the dry bones of our circumstances and shifts us into life. Mary is

pregnant. She and Joseph have begun their journey to Bethlehem. Herod is in charge of the region, but we know that is not the full story. This week I challenge you to do one new thing—something that breathes life into your bones and hope into your heart.

Then you will be able to joyfully proclaim, “I who have died am alive again today.” Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: Let us give as we are able: joyfully and generously!

DOXOLOGY/CAROL

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a guitar chord diagram above it and a bass clef staff below it. The lyrics are written between the two staves. The chords are: F, E/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm/Bb, Dm7/A, Gm7, C7, F, E/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm7/Bb, C7, F, Bb/D, F, Bb/D, F7/C, Bb, Dm, E/A, Am, Gm/Bb, Bbmaj7, C, F, E/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm7/Bb, C7, F.

What can I offer poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
 yet what can I offer: all of my heart.

WORDS: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
 MUSIC: Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

CRANHAM
 Irregular

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Out of dry bones, O God, you can restore a nation to new life. Out of lifelessness, you can create vibrant abundance. Take our humble offerings and make of them an overflowing blessing from which the thirsty may drink and the dead may find new life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(litany from Chalice Worship, Disciples of Christ)

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: God of light, in whom there is no shadow, your gifts to us are from the very beginning of time.

People: They begin with creation, when your Spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter, and when your Word brought forth light on the face of the earth.

Leader: They continued with our ancient ancestors, like Noah, whom you blessed with the colorful promise of the rainbow.

People: And like Sarah and Abraham, whom you blessed with a child whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the nations.

Leader: In the desert, you gave the gifts of manna and of living water to the weary pilgrims whom you led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

People: At last, you sent your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and vulnerable, who grew to be the very Light of Light, full of grace and truth.

Leader: We thank you, O God, that you have sent us Jesus Christ to bring life and immortality to light. Help us to receive your gifts with joy and humility: as we receive this bread and wine, may we open our hearts to receive your love and grace in Jesus Christ, and receive the love and support of one another.

People: Be born among us, that we may give Christ's love to the world, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF GIFTS

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us in Jesus, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mary, Did You Know?

Cm Bb

1 Ma - ry, did you know that your ba - by boy would
 2 Ma - ry, did you know that your ba - by boy would

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of the song. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line consists of a sustained chord of G2, Bb2, and D3. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Ab Cm G Gsus

some - day walk on wa - ter? Ma - ry, did you
 give sight to a blind man? Ma - ry, did you

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of the song. The top staff continues the melody with quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5. The bass line continues with the G2, Bb2, D3 chord. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Cm Bb Ab Fm G

know that your ba - by boy would save our sons and daugh -
 know that your ba - by boy will calm a storm with his

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of the song. The top staff continues the melody with quarter notes G5, F5, E5, and D5. The bass line continues with the G2, Bb2, D3 chord. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

G Ab Bb

- ters? Did you know that your ba - by boy has
 hand? Did you know that your ba - by boy has

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth lines of the song. The top staff continues the melody with quarter notes C5, Bb4, Ab4, and G4. The bass line continues with the G2, Bb2, D3 chord. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Eb $\frac{Gm7}{D}$ Cm Fm7 $\frac{Fm}{Eb}$

come to make you new? This child that you de - liv -
 walked where an - gels trod? When you kissed your lit - tle ba -

$\frac{Fm6}{D}$ $\frac{Cm}{G}$ 1 G 2 G Gsus

- ered, will soon de - liv - er you. God. The
 - by, then you kissed the face of

Ab Bb Cm $\frac{Cm}{Bb}$

blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live a -

Ab $\frac{Eb}{G}$ Fm7 Bb Ab Gm7 Fm7 $\frac{Fm}{D}$

gain; the lame will leap, the dumb will speak the prais-es of the

Gsus G N.C. Cm Bb

Lamb. Ma-ry, did you know that your ba - by boy is

Ab Cm/G G Gsus Cm Bb

Lord of all cre - a - tion? Ma-ry, did you know that your ba -

Ab Fm/G G Gsus Ab

- by boy will one day rule the na - tions? Did you know

Bb Eb Gm7/D Cm

that your ba - by boy was heav-en's per-fect Lamb? This

Fm Fm/Eb Fm6/D Cm/G G7 Cm

sleep-ing child you're hold-ing is the great "I AM!"

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Council Nominations:

President	Roland Dicke	Vice President	Myra Hanenkratt
Recording Secretary	Amy Opperman	Treasurer	Lynda Goodwin
Sr. Elder	Diane Gilberg	Jr. Elder	Bryan Trego
Sr. Deacon	Tracy Oldiges	Jr. Deacon	Open
Trustee	Kirk Dicke	Trustee	Lindsay Quellhorst
Trustee	Tom Brandewie		

BENEDICTION: May the God of peace himself fill you with his Spirit, giving your grace and love that you may be kept sound and whole as we await the birth of the Christ Child. Go in peace. Amen.

ADVENT RESPONSE

CHRISTMAS

188 Angels We Have Heard on High

Refrain

The musical score is presented in two systems. The first system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment for the first phrase. The second system shows the continuation of the piece. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Chord symbols: F, Dm, Gm7, C, Fmaj7, Bb, C/E, C, F/A, C, F, Bb, F/C, C7, F.

Lyrics: Glo - - - - - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - -
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

WORDS and MUSIC: French carol, 18th c.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Raymon, Anna and Eugene Plattner by Bev Plattner.

Attendance-Daily Devotions-50, November 21-Sunday Worship Online-245, In Person-103, Sunday School-In Person-16, Teachers-7.

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

Daily Devotions-Please join us, Monday-Thursday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page: St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

Bell Choir Rehearsal-Bell Choir will be rehearsing (9:00am) and playing (10:15 service) on Sunday, December 5.

Widow and Widower Luncheon-The next Widow, Widower Luncheon will be at 11:30 am on Wednesday, December 8th. All are welcome to come for a time of eating, sharing and laughter. Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall, Kettlersville.

Open Table

Free Community Meal

When: December 20, 2021

Who: Everyone

Where: St. Paul Assembly Room

Serving: 4:00pm-6:00pm

Menu: Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans,
Side Salad, Dinner Roll, Yummy Desserts

Carry-outs Available, Free Chair Massages

Prepared and Served by: The Women's Group of Holy Redeemer

2022 Altar Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like. You may also call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you. Price is \$30.00.

Blue Christmas Service-The Advent and Christmas seasons are often very difficult for folk who are mourning the loss of loved ones. To acknowledge these losses and our grief, St. Paul UCC, St. Peter's Church and Gilberg & Hartwig Funeral Home are hosting a Blue Christmas Worship Service on Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Church. The Blue Christmas service will include scripture readings, music, a message and the opportunity for you to light candles in memory of loved ones. Each year, this service has provided comfort and hope for people in our community and beyond. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve at St. Paul Church-Christmas Eve Open House 5:00-7:00 p.m. Open House will include Christmas music, Christmas scriptures and quiet communion. You are invited to come and stay for as long as you'd like or as short as you need. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. 11:00 p.m. Christmas carols, scripture, message, lighting of candles, dedication of the Light, Sacrament of Holy Communion. All are welcome.

2022 Council Positions-2022 will be here before we know it and we are looking to fill several council positions. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of the following: **Jr. Deacon**. Questions or willing to serve, please contact Roland Dicke or Myra Hanenkratt. Thank you!

Blessing Pantry-is accessible during these hours - **Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm**. The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome – Blessing Pantry Needs- Diapers (size 2, 4) Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Baby Lotion, Chap Stick, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Q-Tips, Kleenex, Paper Plates, Garbage Bags, Food Storage Bags, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, and Napkins. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

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.

January/February 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. Thank you!

E-Giving @ St. Paul

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

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048

How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))

- For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
 - For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 space pantry (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

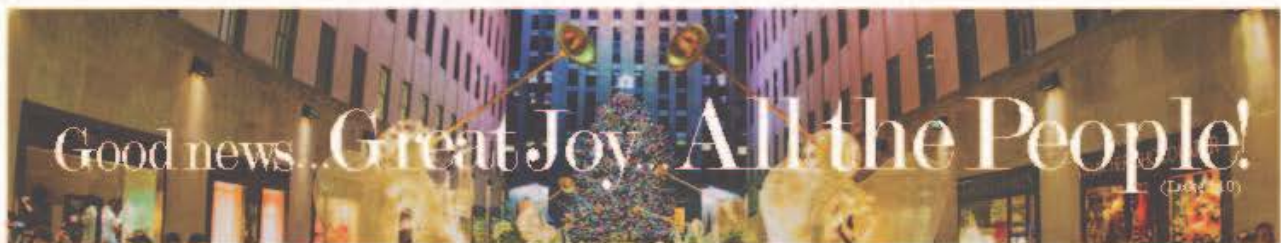
Once a text amount is sent:

Registration Link- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.
Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

Donation Confirm- Sent via text each time a donation is made.

Calendar-Week of December 5, 2021

Sunday	9:00am	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	9:00am	Sunday School in person
	10:15am	Worship in person & via Facebook Live w/Holy Communion & Congregational Meeting
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-New Bremen
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm	Elmwood Worship
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:30pm-6:30pm	Splash (4 th & 5 th grade)
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm-8:30pm	Confirmation
Thursday	6:00pm-9:00pm	Jr/Sr High Youth Do Good Restaurant
	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	Time to be decided	Women's Service Group
Friday	Afternoon	Office Closed



They Came When You Needed Them

They came when you needed them. They answered the phone when you called. They baptized and married and buried your loved ones. They gave up weekend after weekend after weekend to care for your spirit, lead you in worship, and point to God in your midst.

Some of them did it for less money than they could easily live on. Some of them did it for less than they would have been willing to do any other job for, because of what they believe about who God is, and what they believe about who you are.

For all the sacrifices that clergy and lay church workers have made in our congregations, over 100 years ago the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ created the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund**, to help support them in retirement and during times of emergent need.

The Christmas Fund provides supplementation of small pension payments for retired clergy who often served small congregations throughout their careers. It provides supplementation of health premium costs, to help ensure their wellness throughout their lives. And the Christmas Fund provides emergency grants Christmas "Thank You" gift checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship.

A gift to the Christmas Fund is your opportunity to join with others in the United Church of Christ to bring good news and great joy to those who have given so much to our church.

In 2020, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 276 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,180,187)
- Health benefits supplementation for 89 retired clergy and lay employees (\$274,008)
- Emergency grants for 96 individuals and families (\$214,649)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 504 retired clergy and lay employees (\$252,000)

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund