

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



the good news is...

great love for
God & neighbor



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: Tell me something good!
C: **God loves you more than you could imagine.**
P: Tell me something good!
C: **God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.**
P: Tell me something good!
C: **God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.**
P: This is good news indeed!
C: **Let us worship our compassionate God.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Family of faith, we long to love others as God loves us, but that work is easier said than done. We lose our way. We become distracted. We grow fearful. We need God's grace. Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given. So join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in being transformed. Let us pray:

C: Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, Amen.

P: Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

C: We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again. Thanks be to God for this unending love! Amen.

KYRIE

Leader: In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer -
- cy up - on us.
Chri - ste e - lei - son. Christ, have mer -
- cy up - on us.

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

ALL:

A - men, A - - - men A men.

GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry to God in the high est and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. ____

Choir: Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.



Glo-ry to God in the high est and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. ____

Choir: Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer



Glo-ry to God in the high est and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. ____



Glo-ry to God in the high est and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. ____

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

*** GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also, with you.**

P: Good news, God, speak louder than the news updates. Speak louder than our mental distractions. Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear. God, speak loudly to us today, because we long to hear your good news once more. With hope we pray,

C: **Amen.**

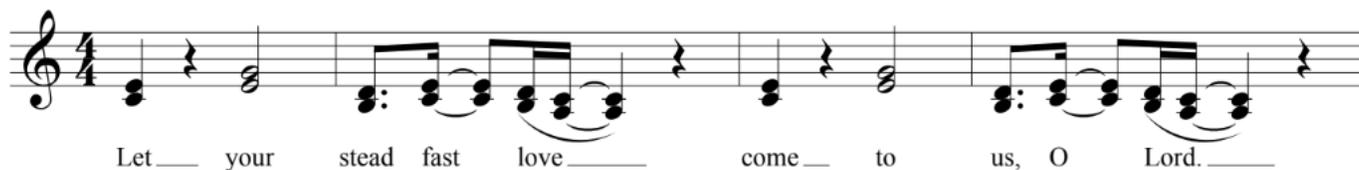
WORD

FIRST READING: LUKE 7: 36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

A: **Word of God, Word of Life.**

C: Thanks be to God.



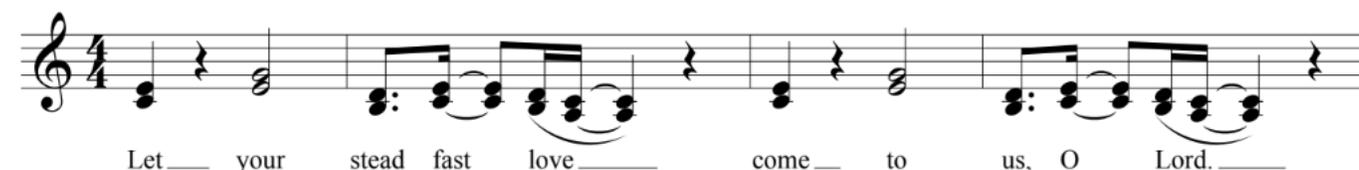
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.



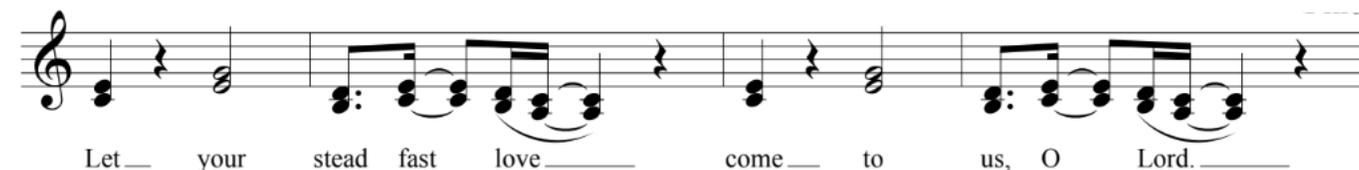
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you promised, we will trust your word.



Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

***GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 25: 35-40

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter, beginning with the 35th verse.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

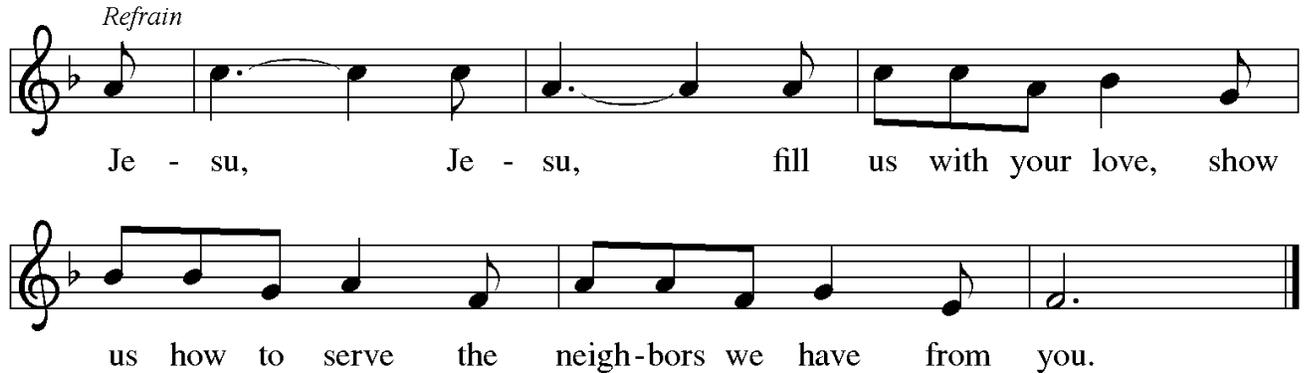
SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

ELW 708

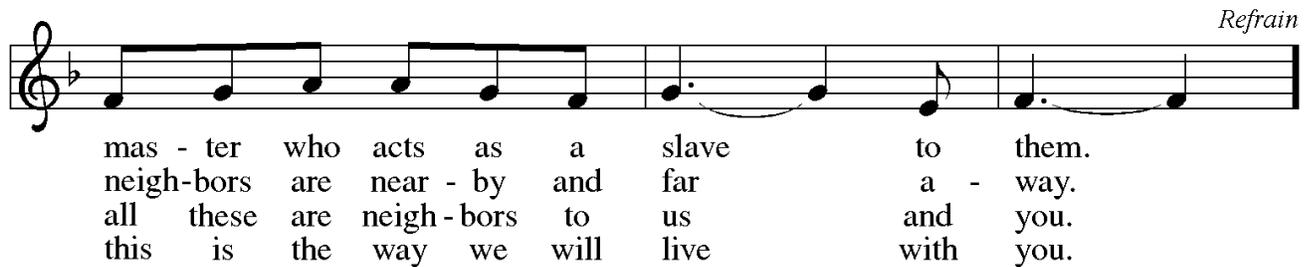
Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



Refrain
mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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*STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead; on the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Jesus of Nazareth, your love for this world is so strong. It's like a jar of perfume broken in a crowded room— it permeates everything it touches. God, we long to love like that. We long to love you with the same extravagant abundance that the woman with the alabaster jar displayed.

However, we often get in our own way. Holy God, today we pray: when it comes to our neighbors, give us eyes to see as you see. Give us hands to serve as you serve. Give us arms to hold. Give us feet to journey alongside. Give us hearts of compassion, just like yours.

In particular, today we pray for Rosemary Rizzo, Tony Rizzo, Erin Jankowski, Dee Marinov, John Veihdeffer, Pr. Bill Seibert, and all those we name in our hearts

God, our love does not stop with our neighbor. We also long to love you. So when we pass a field of purple, remind us to say thank you. When we hear the sound of laughter, remind us that there is good in this world. When music or birdsong moves our soul, remind us that you are always present with us.

In all of these moments, turn our hearts toward you. May we be the next ones to love boldly, to sing praise, to say thank you. Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share God's peace with each other now.

MEAL

OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord; _____ Fill to the

brim our cup of bless - ings. _____ Gath - er the har - vest from the seeds that were

sown _____ And be fed with the bread of _____ life. _____ Gath - er the hopes and the

dreams of all; _____ U - nite them with the prayers _____ we of - fer _____ now. _____

Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence; _____ Give us a fore - taste of the feast, _____

Give us a fore - taste of the feast, _____ Give us a fore - taste of the feast to come. _____

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

C: **O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

Leader: ALL: Leader: ³

The Lord be with you. — And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: Leader:

We lift them to the Lord. — Let us give thanks to the Lord our — God. —

ALL:

It is — right — to give our thanks — and praise. —

Mmmm Mmmm

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, Almighty God, through our Savior, Je-sus Christ, who on this day over came death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. So, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

X2

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sing each line twice

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r — and might —

X2

2. Heav'n and earth — are full — of your glo - ry, Ho-san - na in the high - est —

X2

3. Bless'd is he — who comes — in the name of the Lord —

X1

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r — and might —

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so, we will join our voices together to pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying. . .

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: We believe in a table-setting God

C: who always has a seat saved for you.

P: We believe in an inviting God

C: who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended.

P: We believe in a radically welcoming God

C: who eats with the overlooked and the outcast, the hungry and the downtrodden.

P: We believe in the good news of the gospel, which reminds us

C: That all are welcomed, all are celebrated, all are loved, and all are claimed.

P: Pull up a seat at God's table.

C: There is good news to be shared here. Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. ____



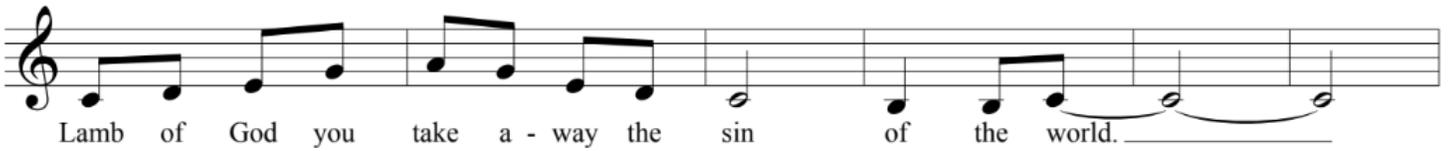
Have ____ mer - cy on us. ____



Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. ____



Have ____ mer - cy on us. ____



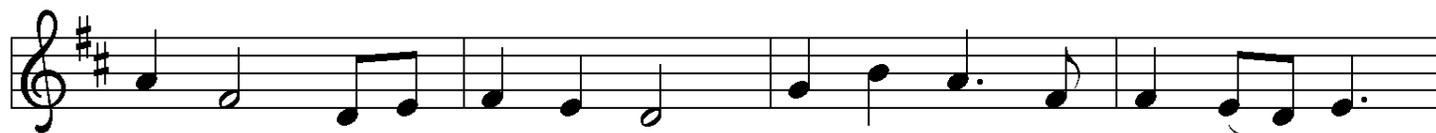
Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. ____



Grant ____ us peace. ____

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

We Come to the Hungry Feast



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever
Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

P: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence.

C: **Amen.**

P: And now may this, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace forever.

C: **Amen.**

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

A: Loving God, In a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray,

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

***BLESSING**

P: As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won't, then who will? Thanks be to God for this good, good news.

C: **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803

NEXT PAGE

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Show Christ's love to the world.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

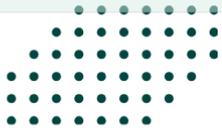
prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WORDS FOR WORSHIP



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Prayers and Words for Worship by Rev. Anna Strickland

MUSIC

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Text Acknowledgments for Behold, I Make All Things New, music by Benjamin Splichal Larson

Materials prepared by the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC), published in Praying Together © 1988: the preface dialogue, the canticle texts "Holy, holy, holy," and "Lamb of God."

KYRIE

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship, based on Psalm 119:41-42. Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Scripture references noted as NRSV are from New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Ben's Liturgy

"Behold, I Make All Things New"

by Ben Splichal Larson

Transcribed, Music Engraved, and Arranged by Cory Clay/BMI

"Behold, I Make All Things New" was written by Ben Splichal Larson. Ben was killed in the Haiti Earthquake on January 12, 2010, when he was there with his wife, Renee, and his cousin, Jon. Ben sang the "Lamb of God" while buried in the rubble and then died.

It was Ben's intention, and now is family's prayer, that the music he wrote to the ancient worship language of the church be a catalyst for renewal, hope, and faith for people and congregations. In the spirit of Ben, we give his liturgy to the Church with joy and pray it may bless all who sing it.



COVER IMAGE

Paul Omen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAY FOR...



ROSEMARY RIZZO
TONY RIZZO
ERIN JANKOWSKI
DEE MARINOV
MARYANN AND CHIP
ORLANDO
JOHN VEIDEFFER

GEORGE TROESTER- SON OF MAUREEN SIETESKI
MAYA CHAKRABORTY
KATHERINE SIKORSKI
BROOKE- GREAT-NIECE OF ANNETTE BERG
ANGELA ROESER
EMILY- NIECE OF PATTY WALKER
FRANK SENN- BROTHER OF NANCY NOBLE
JANICE DARVEAU- FRIEND OF KATHY BUSDIECKER
DAVID JINKS- FATHER OF SARAH KUEHFUS
DIANE BYERS- FRIEND OF NANCY STOEHR
REED AND MARSHALL WHITE- COUSINS OF NANCY STOEHR
TOM SMITH- BROTHER-IN-LAW OF SHIRLEY SHANNON
PR. BILL SEIBERT- FORMER PASTOR OF ST. PAUL'S

HELEN W. AND JOSEPH ENGELHARDT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS for 2026 are currently available in the church office, and on the St. Paul's website. Engelhardt scholarships are available to current, active members of St. Paul's only, attending college (undergraduate and graduate studies), trade schools, or other advanced education. If you are unsure of, or have questions concerning your status, contact Pastor Ashlin at 716-634-2330.

Completed applications must be returned by Monday, March 30th, 2026 – please note that absolutely no applications will be accepted beyond that date.

The next book club meeting will be on March 29th after the service in the Friendship Room. We will be discussing The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. Sandy Emser will lead the discussion and Peg Clukey will be our hostess.

Looking ahead, the next meeting will be on May 17th to discuss The Measure by Nikki Erlick.

Our Lenten Midweek Services and dinners will begin on February 25th. This weeks dinner is hosted by the church council.

Dinner begins at 6:00pm with worship following at 7:00pm

ALL ARE WELCOME



WASH ME CLEAN LENTEN DRIVE

The St. Paul's Social Ministry Committee is excited to update everyone on our hygiene pantry, Wash Me Clean. As you all know, this is a brand new effort, and one that we hope will fill an unmet need in the community.

This year, rather than holding a Lenten food drive as we usually do, we've decided to kick off Wash Me Clean by holding a hygiene drive instead. We'll be asking for new, full-sized, unopened items, both for personal and household use. An Amazon shopping list has been created, so if you'd rather not go out in the cold and shop, you can just click and your donation will be sent directly to St. Paul's. We are including a list of items as well if you'd rather shop directly, and donations of gift cards and cash are also welcome. There is a bin by the coat rack where you can deposit the items you purchased, and we're hoping to have to empty it several times by the time Easter rolls around.

We are hoping to get this effort off the ground in a big way, and we can use all the help we can get. This is a great opportunity for us to shine the light of Christ in the community, and as simple as it sounds, providing these items can go a long way in preserving the physical and emotional health of our neighbors by assisting them in getting their basic needs met, while maintaining their dignity. A huge thanks to Lee Cluckey for assembling the shelving we'll be using to store the pantry items.

If you have any questions regarding Wash Me Clean, please feel free to reach out to Joe Somma, Sue Gibbons or Patty Walker.

Thank you,
St. Paul's Social Ministry Committee

Shopping List

Personal Hygiene

Bar soap
Body wash
Shampoo
Deodorant
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Feminine Hygiene Products

Household

All purpose cleaner like Pine Sol or Lysol
Laundry detergent (pods or sheets)
Fabric softener sheets
Dishwashing liquid
Dishwasher soap (pods)
Cleanser
Sponges or cleaning cloths
Disinfectant wipes
Disinfectant spray



If God Lived Next Door

If God lived next door, I'd drop off a loaf of bread. I'd use my mom's best recipe. I'd wrap it in parchment and ribbon and place it on the front stoop. If God lived next door, I'd leave a note with my phone number. Call anytime you need anything! I'm always happy to help! If God lived next door, I'd keep sugar on the shelf, just in case she needed a cup. I'd put a picnic table in the front yard and begin taking my coffee there. Whenever God passed by with their gaggle of rescue dogs, I could say, Want to sit for a moment? Want to rest your legs? I'd keep a jar of dog treats and water by the mailbox and change my doormat to one that says:

All are welcome here.

If God lived next door,
I'd want to build something beautiful.
Then again,
who says she doesn't?

PREACHER/PRESIDER
REV. ASHLIN MARCHESI

ORGANIST
PATRICK GARD

Liturgical Assistant
DAWN SAGERMAN

Communion Assistant
TBD

Ushers
GENE EMSER & JOHN HANNON

Alter Guild
DEB WALDROP

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