

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 49 Issue 8

August, 2026

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

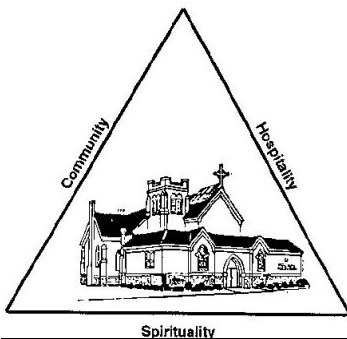
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Hello Everyone,

August is here already, and if you receive this newsletter before the 4th of August, come join us for 'National Night Out' at the Fieldhouse in Elida as we honor our first responders and gather together as a community. Bring the kids or grandkids to the bouncy house, hang out for a while talking to people you know, and celebrate all the things Elida has to offer. We will be there from 6-9 pm, and the tropical bounce house will be "jumping", so come by and say hi.

A lot is going on here at St. Paul's, and you are always welcome to come join in the fun and ministries. We are once again collecting for school and health kits as well as period packs. We will have a Red Cross Blood Drive on the 27th of August from noon to 5 pm. Invite your friends to save a life by giving blood, and they can see where you go on Sundays and help others in need at the same time.

We are also helping with the 'Fair Courtesy Cart' again this year. Come, drive the cart around the fair, and help others by being an example of 'Love Made Real', August 21-29, at the Allen County Fair. You can sign up at the Media Desk during church or by calling the church office.

By the time you read this, Marla will be back in the country from her long journey to China. I hope you will take a moment to ask her about her trip and hear some of the great stories (both good and bad) about her mission to China to reach children with God's love through her actions. It has been a long month without my wife, but the dog and I survived with very little damage to ourselves and the house.

Finally, for the whole month of August, we will be looking at the "Sermon on the Mount". The Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, the Golden Rule, and even a six-pack will be part of the discussion we have. Jesus' sermon to his disciples with a few thousand people on a hillside is the gold standard for sermon writers throughout the centuries that we have been the church. I hope I can help you to understand better, and by understanding you will have a deeper relationship with God. Remember, your homework from July should still be happening: Texting, calling, and meeting with friends. Also, being brave enough to invite someone you know, or maybe even someone you don't know, to go to church. You may be the only connection they ever have to Jesus. Until we see each other in the mission field, keep on being God's witness in your world.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Thought for the Month:

You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you.

—James Lane Allen

August 2
'Coins for Communion'
 to Benefit
 Meals 'Til Monday



Food Pantry Sunday
August 23

Breakfast items need;
Cereal. Oatmeal, shelf-stable bacon

Donations are taken to the Five Loaves Food Pantry
 at The Church at Allentown

National Night Out

August 4

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Elida Field House Parking lot

Volunteers are needed to
 man the Bouncy House.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who provided
 food to Family Promise families on
 July 24th!

Last year Family Promise served 30
 families and served 12,408 ,meals with
 the help from many churches
 like St. Paul's.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Christian Symbol



Deadline: the 22nd
 of each month

St. Paul's Epistle

is published by St. Paul's
 United Methodist Church

Secretary	Gail Fessler
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Casey Rife
Custodian	Dave Decker



SUNFLOWER

The sunflower, a symbol of
 faithfulness and devotion,
 represents a life turned toward
 God. Just as the flower follows
 the sun, believers are called to
 seek the light of Christ and remain focused on
 Him.

Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of
 God's presence, while its steady growth points
 to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of
 the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual
 fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds
 us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to
 reflect His light in all we do.



**Allen County Fair
August 21—August 29**

Courtesy Golf Cart Mission

The courtesy golf cart mission is a chance to help people at the Allen County Fair, as we share this ministry with Westside, who have been doing it for several years. You can bring a friend and spend some time shuttling people around the fairgrounds. There will be a map of where you can drive on the fairgrounds, as you shuttle people around. It is a fun way to talk with people you know and to get to know others as they enjoy the fair. A sign-up sheet is at the Media Desk.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

**Blessing
of the
Backpacks**



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 30

To start off the new school year, all students, teachers, home schooling, and any school employee, bring your backpacks, or whatever you carry into work each day, to the worship service to be blessed.



Sunnydale House 5K

Labor Day, September 7

**Start setting up around 8:15 AM and
clean-up after the last runners pass.**

There are 2 watering stations:

**One, is in front of the church, and the other at the Fieldhouse parking lot.
We will need volunteers to help with this mission
to give out cups of water.**

Kits Mission

SCHOOL KIT (Kids Kit)

- ONE - box 12 colored pencils
(leave in box)
 - ONE - 2-pocket folder
 - One glue stick
 - One pair of blunt scissors
(Round Tip, remove from package)
- One 70-page, wide ruled spiral notebook
 - One 30-centimeter / 12" ruler
 - One hand-held pencil sharpener
(Remove from package)
 - One large eraser
(no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers
(remove from package, Rubber band together)
 - One box of crayons (24 count)

\$2.00 for processing and shipping kits.

Seal kit in a **2 gallon size ziplock bag** and place at the altar.

**Last Collection Date is
September 13**

Volunteers will be needed to assemble the kits. If interested, let Janna Thompson or the office know.



HEALTH KIT (Hygiene Kit)

- One washcloth
- One fingernail or toenail clipper
(remove from package)
- One toothbrush (in original package)
 - One bath-size bar of soap
(in original package)
- One travel-size stick deodorant
(3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol)
 - One travel-size lotion
(3.4 oz. or less, fragrance-free)
- One travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz. or less)
- One travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz. or less, expiration date of at least 1 year.)

\$2.00 for processing and shipping kits.

Seal kit in a **gallon-size ziplock bag** and place at the altar.

PERIOD PACK

Menstrual Hygiene Kit

- Two - 2 oz. bottles of hand sanitizer
 - One - travel pack Wet Ones
- 5 - regular Tampons (unscented)
- 5 - super absorbency Tampons (unscented)
 - Twelve - Sanitary Pads
(Long super ultra-thin, unscented)
- One - bath-size bar soap, 3 oz bar or larger. (Original Package)
(NO Ivory or Jergen's)
- One-pack flushable wipes (unscented, 42 count)

\$2.00 for processing and shipping kits.

Seal kit in a **gallon-size ziplock bag** and place at the altar.

Red Cross Blood Drive



Blood Drive **St Paul's United Methodist Church**

Fellowship Hall
105 E Main St
Elida

Thursday, August 27
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit
RedCrossBlood.org and enter: elidastpaul to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



Come to give blood in August for a \$20 Amazon Gift
Card by email. Terms: rcblood.org/August.



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

[2011] Order ID: 1882602 • Item ID: 1882602 • Qty: 1 of 1 • 990003 - 0036 JAN-0335 - ABC1 - 256079

**For questions or help to sign-up for a time to donate,
please contact Sharla Murphy 419-236-4650.**

Faith In Action

FINANCIAL GIVING

Worship Attendance:

June 28, 2026	63
July 5, 2026	50
July 12, 2026	72
July 19, 2026	57
July 26, 2026	50

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
July 5, 2026	\$4,824.34	\$285.00
July 12, 2026	\$10,128.52	\$260.00
July 19, 2026	\$2,366.99	\$1,785.91
July 26, 2026	\$3,581.75	\$957.00
TOTAL:	\$20,901.60	\$3,287.91

Unified Budget:

Weekly Budget Needed = \$4,644.58

Total Need = \$18,578.32

July Total = \$20,901.60

Sunday School Attendance

June 28, 2026	14
July 5, 2026	3
July 12, 2026	8
July 19, 2026	6
July 26, 2026	7

Hospitality Cart

August 2, 2026	OPEN
August 9, 2026	OPEN
August 16, 2026	Ashton Rife
August 23, 2026	OPEN
August 30, 2026	OPEN

Altar Flowers

August 2, 2026	Steve & Tracy Sdao
August 9, 2026	Jamie & Jan Wyant
August 16, 2026	Susan Nartker
August 23, 2026	Jonathan & Chelsey Cook
August 30, 2026	Jeannine & Karla May

Communion Servers: August 2

Station #1:

_____ & _____

Station #2:

_____ & _____

Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 8/1

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Joshua 6:1-14
Romans 13:1-7
Matthew 26:26-35

Sunday 8/2

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Joshua 6:15-27
Acts 22:30-23:11, Mark 2:1-12

Monday 8/3

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Joshua 7:1-13
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 26:36-46

Tuesday 8/4

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Joshua 8:1-22
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 26:47-56

Wednesday 8/5

Psalm 53, 119:49-72
Joshua 8:30-35
Romans 14:13-23
Matthew 26:57-68

Thursday 8/6

Psalm 59, 60, 66, 67
Joshua 9:3-21
Romans 15:1-13
Matthew 26:69-75

Friday 8/7

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Joshua 9:22-10:15
Romans 15:14-24
Matthew 27:1-10

Saturday 8/8

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Joshua 23:1-16
Romans 15:25-33
Matthew 27:11-23

Sunday 8/9

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Joshua 24:1-15
Acts 28:23-31, Mark 2:23-28

Monday 8/10

Psalm 58, 64, 65, Joshua 24:16-33
Romans 16:1-26
Matthew 27:24-31

Tuesday 8/11

Psalm 61, 62, 68, Judges 2:1-23
Romans 16:17-27
Matthew 27:32-44

Wednesday 8/12

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Judges 3:12-30
Acts 1:1-14, Matthew 27:45-54

Thursday 8/13

Psalm 70, 74, Judges 4:4-23
Acts 1:15-26, Matthew 27:55-66

Friday 8/14

Psalm 69, 73, Judges 5:1-18
Acts 2:1-21, Matthew 28:1-10

Saturday 8/15

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Judges 5:19-31
Acts 2:22-36
Matthew 28:11-20

Sunday 8/16

Psalm 34, 93, 96, Judges 6:1-24
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Mark 3:20-30

Monday 8/17

Psalm 79, 80, Judges 6:25-40
Acts 2:37-47, John 1:1-18

Tuesday 8/18

Psalm 78, Judges 7:1-18
Acts 3:1-11, John 1:19-28

Wednesday 8/19

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
Judges 7:19-8:12
Acts 3:12-26, John 1:29-42

Thursday 8/20

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

Friday 8/21

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

Saturday 8/22

Psalm 87, 90, 136
Judges 9:22-57
Acts 4:32-5:11, John 2:13-25

Sunday 8/23

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

Monday 8/24

Psalm 89, Judges 12:1-7
Acts 5:12-26, John 3:1-21

Tuesday 8/25

Psalm 95, 100, Judges 13:1-15
Acts 5:27-42, John 3:22-36

Wednesday 8/26

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Judges 13:15-24
Acts 6:1-15, John 4:1-26

Thursday 8/27

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

Friday 8/28

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

Saturday 8/29

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

Sunday 8/30

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

Monday 8/31

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



Hymns as Therapy

In Private: Hymns as Therapy

Why We Must Draw Strength from Song

Then Sings My Soul Book 3, By Robert J. Morgan

SING THE HYMNS

Obviously we should sing the hymns. At least, it seems obvious to me; but don't just sing them at church. The famous missionary Amy Carmichael once told of a time in her childhood when, during a family vacation on the northern Irish coast, she and her siblings had gone rowing. It wasn't a safe place for children, and their getting in the boat had been foolhardy. The tides were very powerful. The children were caught in the currents and being swept toward the open sea. Her two brothers, straining at the oars, looked up at Amy in alarm and shouted, "Sing!"

"I sang at the top of my voice the first thing that came into my head," she said. It was the hymn:

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought,
O words with heavenly comfort fraught;
Where'er I do, Where'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hands that leadeth me!*

"It certainly wasn't God's hands that led us out into forbidden water," Amy later wrote, "but it was He who caused the coastguard men to hear that song and row quickly to the rescue; so we weren't swept over the bar.

Recently I received a letter from a man named Roy Swanberg who lives in Princeton, Illinois. In 1962, Mr. Swanberg was stationed with American forces in the countryside of England. On this particular occasion, he had worked for several days on a difficult assignment, and he was exhausted. It was almost time for him to go off duty, and just at that moment his sergeant approached him and chewed him out over some small matter not even of his own doing.

Roy was steamed, or as he told me, "spit'n mad," and as soon as his shift was over he stormed down the road, determined to leave the base and hike off his anger. He forgot that England traffic moves on the opposite side of the road, and just as the sun went down a large truck brushed past him, sending him tumbling into the ditch.

That made matters worse, and Roy decided he didn't care if he was hit or not. He was far from home, exhausted, lonely, and feeling sorry for himself. He said that if some temptation had offered itself to him at that moment, he'd probably have done it, whatever it was. He kept walking through a town or two, and he walked all night in a big circle.

The sun was coming up as he headed back to base. His thoughts turned to home. At five-thirty in the morning in England, his family would still be asleep back in Minnesota. They were proud of their only son, serving in the military. He thought of his sisters and friends and neighborhood back in Minneapolis, and of his church. And to his surprise, he started thinking about his childhood Sunday school classes and his childhood teachers.

Continued on pg. 9

Hymns as Therapy

Continued from pg. 8

SING THE HYMNS

And he thought of the Sunday school songs he had learned as a child—"The B-I-B-L-E: Yes, that's the book for me." he began to hum the tunes to "Jesus Love Me," and "Thank you, Lord, For Saving My Soul." He began singing aloud the words of "Heavenly Sunshine," "Blessed Assurance," and "Trust and Obey."

Near the end of his long nocturnal walk, Roy remembered the song that says "I Have the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart." It was truly a personal revival. He arrived back at camp, cleaned up, got dressed for a new day, and though he hadn't slept all night, went back to work, greeted his sergeant with a smile, and dove back into his work with a joy of Jesus in his heart.

Some time ago, I saw two verses in Psalm 106 that struck me with the force of their contrast.

- ♦ Verse 12 says the Israelites, after their deliverance at the Red sea, *believed His promise and sang His praise.*
- ♦ Verses 24-25 contain these interesting words: *Thy did not believe His promise. They grumbles in their tents.*

When we believe His promises, we sing; when we don't we grumble. Both morning and evening, both in public and private, let's sing the hymns, thinking about the words and using the verses to help us sing our great Redeemer's praise.

The Sacred Pace of Rest

Jesus, who often withdrew with his disciples to quiet, deserted places, understood something we easily forget: transformation takes time. The richest, most life-giving compost does not form overnight. As author James Gleick observes, "You can't hurry compost for the same reason you can't hurry love and you can't hurry a soufflé. The biochemistry has its own inherent pace." In much the same way, the most meaningful parts of life unfold slowly. Relationships deepen over years. Wisdom grows through experience. True rest cannot be rushed.

Disciples of Jesus today are invited to rediscover the value of the deserted place. It is not empty or wasted space, but sacred ground. It is where long books can be read, unhurried prayers can be offered and deep thoughts can take root. It is where Sabbath is honored through rest, renewal and quiet attentiveness to God.

In a culture that prizes speed and productivity, stepping away may feel counterintuitive. Yet it is in these still moments that our souls are restored and made fertile for growth. The deserted place becomes a gift, shaping us into people who are grounded, attentive and spiritually mature, ready to reenter the world with renewed strength and purpose.

Guy's Breakfast

A Guy's Breakfast was held on Saturday, June 27th. The youngest guy was Ridge McAdams, 1 year old, and oldest guy, Norm Grigsby at 97. Thank you Jan Wyant and Virginia Hollar for heading up this meal. And thank you to their helpers.



Following the breakfast several of the Guys worked on putting new siding on the Parsonage garage. Thank you, Jamie Wyant and crew.



Connecting With...

A Prayer quilt was presented to Andi Harmon to give her comfort as she endured a major surgery and recovery. Her parents Ross and Jessie, sister Wren, and brother Tanner, along with Shirley Moser who made the special quilt, hold on to the blanket as Pastor Paul prayed.



On June 14, Lena Whetstone left for Lakeside for Youth Church Camp for 7 days along with a group of kids from Spencerville, and Trinity UMC. At camp, Lena got to participate in devotionals, fun games and skits, listen to sermons every day, and grow closer to God. She also sang in the choir and played guitar in the worship band there. Lena says she highly recommends church camp for other children/ youth. She has also gone to Camp Wesley before, and both were great experiences for growing closer to God.



In Every Season, Turn to God

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*



The People of St. Paul's



Congratulations to **Blake Selover** and **Dr. Rebecca Dingus** on their June 27th marriage in Huntington West Virginia.



May you be blessed for the kindness you've shown us. Thank you for the wind chimes.

Connie and Tracy Mault



Our sympathy to Mary Grigsby and family on the passing of Norm on July 7, 2026. Norm was 97, he and Mary celebrated 68 yrs of Marriage. They have 3 daughters; Cathi (Rick) Lloyd, Teresa Grigsby and Lisa (Phil) Wurster, and several Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren. Norm had been a member of St. Paul's since 1962, he had served on several committees and had been in the choir for over 50 years. Norm served in the Navy and after active service he remained in the Naval reserves for Twenty years, eventually serving as a Brigade officer in Pittsburgh and commanding a Seabee Unit in Toledo. Norm Began his Civil Engineering career at The Ohio Department of Transportation where he became the head of construction for Ohio Division One, where he eventually retired from.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for always supporting and loving Dad. He loved all of you. The wind chime is a lovely reminder of Dad and the faithful church he loved so much.

We appreciate all who helped in his service and luncheon. He would have enjoyed the food and fellowship as we did.

We will always appreciate your love and kindness now and always.

**Grigsby Family,
Cathi, Teresa and Lisa**

Remember in Prayer

**Recovering from Surgery
or in the Hospital**

**Those in Need of Healing,
Support, Strength &
Encouragement**

In the Military

Nathan Stewart

Meetings

August 3, 2026
PPR...7:00 PM

August 4, 2026
Trustees...7:00 PM

August 10, 2026
Ad Council / Finance
7:00 PM

August 19, 2026
Worship Mtg..2:15 PM

No Missions Mtg.

Sundays
Hospitality...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

AUGUST 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



Scott & Beth Warris August 1
AJ & Tara Strauch August 2
Jim & Christie Lewis August 3
Brandon & Jaime Chambers August 4
Brady & Tiffany Emmons August 4
Steve & Tracy Sdao August 4
Dennis & Kim Metzger August 5; 48 yrs.
Jamie & Jan Wyant August 6; 49 yrs.
Scott & Michelle Grapner August 11
David & Susan Nartker August 16; 51 yrs.

						1 Mary Grigsby
2	3	4 Joy Fletcher Cody Scannell	5	6 Anne Laman	7	8 Myrna Metzger
9	10 Kathy Furry	11 Nancy Kizer Michele Luhn Emma Scannell	12	13	14 Connie Mault Chris Przekora	15 Ginny Doseck Polly McPheron
16 Bev Nesbitt Ashton Rife	17	18 Tracy Sdao	19	20 Austin Lewis Dennis Metzger	21	22
23 Nellie Cook Jean May Aric Thompson	24 Gail Fessler	25 Ira Slemmons	26 Jett Mason	27	28	29 Brad Selover Justin Wyant
30 Cole Lewis	31 Paisley Gerdeman					

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Hummingbird Cake

*By Barb Schade
(served at funeral meal)*

Ingredients		Instructions
3 cups	All purpose flour	Combine the first 5 ingredients in a large bowl. Add eggs, and oil stirring until dry ingredients are just moistened DO NOT BEAT. Stir in Vanilla, pineapple, pecans, and bananas. Pour batter in two 9 inch cake pans, use parchment paper or pam spray. Set oven at 350, bake 30-32 minutes, check with tooth pick at 30 minutes. Cool in pans 10 minutes, remove from pans, cool completely on wire rack. *** If you don't have ripened bananas you can put parchment paper on cookie sheet, set oven to 350 degrees. Bake until bananas turn black about 15 to 18 minutes. I slice open and scoop out filling and let cool before putting in mixture. *** Cream Cheese Frosting: Cream butter and softened cream cheese. Gradually add powdered sugar, beat until light and fluffy. Add in Vanilla. * (I use Vanilla paste.) *
1 tsp.	Baking soda	
1/2 tsp.	Salt	
1 tsp.	Ground Cinnamon	
2 cups	Sugar	
3	Eggs, beaten	
3/4 cup	Vegetable oil	
1 1/2 tsp.	Vanilla	
1- 8 oz. can	Crushed Pineapple, undrained	
1 cup	Pecans, chopped	
1 3/4 cup	***Bananas, very ripe, mashed	
	Cream Cheese Frosting:	
3/4 cup	Butter, soft	
1- 12 oz.	Cream Cheese, softened (No already whipped)	
5 cups	Powdered sugar	
1 1/2 tsp.	Vanilla	



KIDZ KORNER

Make a postcard PUZZLE

Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.



What you do:

1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



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dowr



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nsi



lreu



rvoe



em.

Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Elida St Pauls United Methodist Church



Living Our Faith

Carried and Called to Follow



Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of Christianity's most endearing images. Scenes of Jesus holding a small lamb bring comfort during times of trouble, reminding us of God's tender care when we are weak or hurting. In those moments, we are grateful to be carried.

Yet this image also points to a deeper truth. The Shepherd's role is not only to carry the lamb, but to lead the flock. When we are restored and strengthened, we are called to rise, to walk and to follow where He leads.

God meets us in our need with compassion, but He also calls us forward with purpose. The same hands that lift us up also guide us on the path ahead. There is a time to be carried, and there is a time to follow.