

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Rev. Ken Locke, Interim Pastor

Email: stpaulpastor@nktelco.net

Matt Ranly, Council President

Phone: 419-305-1057



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.

IN PERSON WORSHIP NOTES:

Bulletins, Communion, Offering Plates, and Masks are available on tables.

Listening devices are available in the Narthex/front entrance, for those who need them. Please return your device to an Usher following worship. Thank you!

Children's Activity Bags containing children's bulletins and other activities are available. Thank you!

Restrooms are located in the Narthex/front entrance of the church and in the south hallway of the educational building.

WIFI Connection-connect via "St Paul – Guest"

Password: godlovesyou

The * indicates all who are able may stand

April 28, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Interim Pastor
Organist
Liturgist
Sr. Deacon

The Congregation
Rev. Ken Locke
Patty Ruckman
Cindy Newman
June Oaks

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

We Gather Together

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*WELCOME SONG

No Matter

No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

F Dm Gm⁷ C F F⁷

No mat-ter who, — no mat-ter what — no mat-ter where you are on the

B^b G⁷ F Dm G⁷ Gm⁷ C⁷

jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. — No mat-ter

F Dm Gm⁷ C F F⁷

who, — no mat-ter what, — no mat-ter where you are on the

B^b G⁷ F Dm Gm⁷ C⁷ C F F

jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

To verses Last time, Fine

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Let us serve one another in Christ.

People: As Christ loved and served, so will we.

Leader: Let us serve one another in Christ.

People: We will rejoice in the love of this community. Together, let us worship our loving and serving God.

***HYMN**
649

Gather Us In
Gather Us In

No. 649

Unison D A/C# C G Gm/Bb Dm

1 Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, shad-ows of doubt are
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
 3 Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
 4 Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A/C# C G

van-ished a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

we shall a - rise at the give us the cour - age to sound of our name.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are en - ter the song.
 fire of love in our flesh and our true. bone.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Realizing that we have failed to love as we have been loved, yet certain that despite our failures we are still being loved, let us once again confess our sins against God and each other.

*CONFESSION

Leader: God of community, we confess to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we have caused harm by the things we have said and done, and by the things we have not said and not done.

People: We have failed to be as loving and supportive to others as you have been to us.

We have failed to live in unity, or to at least agree to disagree.

We have failed to model your healing grace to the world.

Leader: God of loving community, take away our sins that we might fully embody your commandment to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

People: God, forgive us. Lord, hear our prayer.

(TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)

*PARDON

Leader: Beloved, believe the good news of our faith. In grace and mercy, God forgives all our sins, and with joy and expectation calls us into new life for the sake of the world, through Jesus Christ our savior.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Amen!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

F Bb F C7 F C7 F

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and the Son and the Ho - ly Ghost. As it

5 Gm C7 F Dm Gm C7 F

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end, A - men. As it

9 Gm C7 F Dm Gm C7 F

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end, A - men.

13 Am Dm Gm C7 Am Dm Gm C7 Am Dm Gm C7 F Bb

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

God's Word Is Proclaimed

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:10–18

(NT) pg. 166

10 Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12 What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to

Christ.” 13 Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. 18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

ACTS LESSON: Acts 18:1–4

(NT) pg. 138

18 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, 3 and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. 4 Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

(Our youngest disciples are invited to the chancel steps for a special word.

Afterwards, they are invited to return to their seats.

Worship bags are available on the tables in the sanctuary.)

SERMON

It's The Real Thing

Rev. Ken Locke

We Respond to God's Word

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord gave this commandment: “You are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.” We receive these words from Matthew in the

belief that all ages are included in the benefits and joy of this discipleship. As we read in Luke's Gospel, "People even brought little children to him, for him to touch them; but when the disciples saw this, they turned them away. But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'"

In the sacrament of baptism, we celebrate the grace and forgiveness of God that we know in Jesus Christ. Here we proclaim that all life is God's gift, and the gift is good. We thank God for this child. We praise God for the ever-new possibilities which lie open to him as a child of God. We receive him into the love and care of the Christian church, so that as he grows and matures, he may come to know God more fully and offer himself more faithfully in God's service to the world.

Let us proclaim together the faith we share, the faith into which we baptize.

***CREED**

**All: 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
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

Leader: Do you desire to have your child baptized into our faith and do you promise, with God's help, by your life and teaching to lead him toward an understanding of our faith and into the service of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Leader: Do we, the congregation, promise to receive this child and do we promise, with God's help, to lead him toward an understanding of our faith and into the service of Jesus Christ?

***People: We receive this child as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as he explores life. We enfold him in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We will tell the gospel in our midst so that he may live with us for Christ, showing forth his love for all people.**

(Water is poured.)

Leader: O Lord, giver of life and power, you have promised not only to be our God but also the God and Father of all those we love. Sanctify with your spirit this child whom we baptize according to your word, and bless this water, that it may be a sign and seal of new life in Christ our Lord.

Send your Spirit to move over this water that it may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Wash away the sin of all who are cleansed by it. Raise them to new life and graft them to the body of Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them, that they may have power to do your will, and continue forever in the risen life of Christ. To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, be all praise, honor, and glory, now and forever. Amen.

What is the name of this child of God?

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We praise God for calling this child into the company of Christ's people. We accept him with joy. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. Saving God, the message of the cross is utter foolishness to the powerful. Give us the strength and conviction to proclaim and to model your sacrificial love and leadership in all we say and do.

People: Saving God, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Keep our elected officials at all levels focused on the things that truly matter, that they might aggressively work toward your reign of justice and equity for all people. Today we especially lift up the leaders and people of Haiti, Sudan, Russia, Ukraine, Gaza and Israel. We also pray for peace and calm among those who guard our southern border and those so desperate to cross it.

People: God of merciful justice, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Guide physical and behavioral health professionals who care for those in our families and communities whose lives are affected by illness, injury, or grief. Be merciful to those who are dying, comfort those who are grieving, calm those whose lives are riddled with anxiety. We lift up for your special grace Karen Fox, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Terri Mullins, Denise Joyce, Bev Poppe, Ann Hudson, Dee Schroer, and Anna Hoelscher. May you be as present with them as you are present with us now.

People: God of holistic health, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Help us to see past our disagreements with one another, large and small, that we might be united in whatever work it is you are calling us to do together.

People: God of holy cooperation, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: We place in your arms all for whom we pray, out loud or in our hearts, confident in your mercy and grace, through Jesus Christ our savior, who taught us how to be disciples when he taught us to pray by saying, **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. 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.**

WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

*OFFERTORY SONG *We Give Thee but Thine Own* No. 688 vs 1 & 2

688 We Give Thee but Thine Own

G G/B C2 D7/A G G/F C/E G/D Am/C C#dim7 Dsus D

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be:
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 To com - fort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,
 4 The cap - tive to re - lieve, to God the lost to bring,
 5 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

D G G/B C2 D7/A Em D G G7/B Am/C G/D D7 G

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to tend the lone and fa - ther - less is an - gels' work be - low.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
 what - e'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

WORDS: William W. How (1823-1897)
 MUSIC: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

SCHUMANN
 S.M.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

All: Holy Spirit, who guided Paul to carry the good news of Christ to all the world, and who inspires us in our giving to support the life and ministries of this congregation, accept these, our gifts, for your good purposes. Amen.

***HYMN**

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

No. 562

562 We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

Eb
Edim7
 $\frac{Bb7}{F}$
Bb13
Eb

1 We've a sto - ry to tell to the na - tions, that shall turn their
 2 We've a song to be sung to the na - tions, that shall lift their
 3 We've a mes - sage to give to the na - tions, that the Lord who
 4 We've a Sav - ior to show to the na - tions, who the path of

Eb dim7
Eb
Eb dim7
Eb
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
 $\frac{Bb9}{Ab}$
 $\frac{Bb7}{F}$
Eb
 $\frac{Bb}{D}$
 $\frac{Bb7}{Ab}$
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
 $\frac{Bb}{F}$
Eb
Bb7

hearts to the right, a sto - ry of truth and mer - cy, a
 hearts to the Lord, a song that shall con - quer e - vil and
 reigns high a - bove has sent us his Son to save us, and
 sor - row has trod, that all of the world's great peo - ples might

Cm
F
 $\frac{F7}{A}$
Bb
Eb
 $\frac{F7}{C}$
F7
Bb

sto - ry of peace and light, a sto - ry of peace and light.
 shat - ter the spear and sword, and shat - ter the spear and sword.
 show us that God is love, and show us that God is love.
 come to the truth of God, might come to the truth of God.

Refrain

$\frac{Bb7}{F}$
Eb
 $\frac{Bb7}{D}$
Bb7
 $\frac{Bb7}{F}$
Bb7
 $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$
 $\frac{Bb}{Ab}$
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
 $\frac{Bb}{Ab}$
Eb
G

For the dark-ness shall turn to dawn-ing, and the dawn-ing to noon-day bright;

$\frac{Bb7}{F}$ Eb $\frac{Eb}{G}$ $Bb(\sharp_2)$ $Adim7$ $\frac{Eb}{Bb}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ Cm $Fm7$ $\frac{Eb}{Bb}$ $Bb13$ $Bb7$ Eb

and Christ's great king-dom shall come on earth, the king-dom of love and light.

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Leader: Jesus is sending us out to proclaim the gospel.

People: We do not know the right words to say!

Leader: Eloquence and wisdom are not required.

People: What, then, do we say? How do we share the good news?

Leader: Simple. Share what you have experienced. Share what faith has meant to you.

People: But the message of the cross seems so foolish.

Leader: It does—that God would experience a human death for our sake.

People: Yet we know that this is the power of God.

Leader: Again, share what you, yourself, have experienced.

People: Jesus is present in our stories, and will speak through us.

Leader: Let all God's people say,

People: Alleluia, Amen!

***CLOSING SONG**

Go with Us, Lord

No. 747 (x2)

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

*POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Altar Flowers are in memory of Sally and Roland Meckstroth by Sher, Jeff, and Greg Meckstroth. *(After worship, please take home your altar flowers. They will be kept outside the church office after Sunday.)*

Circle of Friends Cards for you to sign are for Mary Klein (South door), Elsie Ahlers (North door), and Dale Schaefer (East door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Location Change for Coffee Shop Gathering on Monday, April 29th - The weekly coffee shop gathering will be held from 2:00-4:00pm at Tom Quellhorst's house. Tom's address is 04795 Tangeman Rd., New Bremen. All are welcome!

Open House for Rev. Locke - Although Pastor Ken will be with us to the end of May, his last service will be held on Sunday, May 12th. Along with this being Mother's Day, we would also like to honor Pastor Ken for his unwavering support of St. Paul with an open house immediately following the service. Finger foods and drinks will be provided in the sanctuary. Please stop by for fellowship and to say your goodbyes. All are welcome.

Church Office Hours: Starting May 1st, the church office hours will be 10:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. The office will be closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00pm each weekday.

Women's Service Group Gathering - The Women's Service Group will meet on Thursday, May 9th at the home of Phyllis Fledderjohann at noon for lunch. The group will also use this time to plan for the upcoming year. Everyone is welcome. Call 419-953-7651 for more information and if you will be attending. We hope to see you there.

Participants - April 21st | Worship In-Person 90

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

2023 Church Directories - Free copies of the 2023 church directory are available on the tables in the sanctuary and outside the church offices.

Join the Prayer Chain! Contact Jeff Paul at jrpaul@nktelco.net or 419-305-0584 to become a member of our St. Paul Prayer Chain. You will have the option to receive prayer concerns through text messages or emails.

Weekly Devotions and Monthly Mailer - Are you hearing from us? Are you keeping up with all that's going on here at St. Paul? If you would like to receive the Wednesday Devotions email and the Monthly Mailer with all the current St. Paul news and information, please contact the church office by calling 419-629-2502 or emailing stpaulnb@nktelco.net.

2024 Council Candidates - We are looking for a council candidate to fill the Jr. Deacon position. If you feel God is laying this on your heart or you would like to nominate someone, please reach out to the church office or Matt Ranly.

Blessing Pantry Hours: Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm. The Pantry is closed on Mondays and Fridays. The Blessing Pantry's current needs include: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Women's Body Wash, Hair Conditioner, Shaving Cream, Men's and Women's Deodorant, Laundry Detergent, Softener Sheets, Baby Lotion, Diaper Cream, Baby Diapers of all sizes are needed at this time (Newborn, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6). Containers are located outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations. **All donations are welcome. Thank you!**



Week of April 28, 2023

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--|
| Sunday | 9:00am 10:15am | Sunday School Worship In Person & Facebook Live |
| Monday | 9:00-12:00pm 2:00pm | Office Hours Coffee and Conversation at Tom Quellhorst's House |
| Tuesday | 9:00am-12:00pm 5:30pm-7:30pm | Office Hours Blessing Pantry Open |
| Wednesday | 9:00am-12:00pm 1:00pm-3:00pm | Office Hours Blessing Pantry Open |
| Thursday | 9:00am-12:00pm 1:00pm-3:00pm | Office Hours Blessing Pantry Open |
| Friday | 9:00am-12:00pm | Office Hours |

April Monthly Mission - Paper for Pentecost!

Paper for Pentecost is the act of giving paper items of all kinds. Isn't it amazing how many paper products our church uses throughout each day? From paper towels, note pads, Kleenex, envelopes, and stamps; the list goes on. This month let's give back to our church and the blessing pantry, which continually gives to so many people in need.

Whether it be a monetary donation or paper products which are useful to our church and Blessing Pantry, let's surround the altar with many paper blessings. Whatever your heart wants to donate is greatly appreciated.

Donations will be received this month and into May. We will receive them and bless them during worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th.

Thanks so much, Mission Team

Church Needs:

White and colored copy paper (8 1/2 x 11), stamps, white envelopes (No. 10; 4 1/8 x 9 1/2), sticky notes, paper towels, Kleenex, paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, disposable (paper) coffee cups, construction paper for Sunday School.

Blessing Pantry needs:

Toilet paper (economy/store brand), paper towels, diapers sizes 4, 5, 6. (*We do NOT need any feminine hygiene products. Proctor & Gamble made a large donation of those.*)



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- FREE VACCINATIONS
- FREE DISEASE RISK ASSESSMENTS
- NO APPT. REQUIRED
- WALK-INS WELCOME



MAY 2, 2024
12-4 PM

QUESTIONS

+419-394-8700

info@agaperminerals.com

www.agaperminerals.com

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$16,714.70
Endowment Trans \$12,340.00 (ytd)
Income \$99,827.77 (ytd)
Expenses \$89,007.53 (ytd)
Balance \$27,534.94 (ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$71,978.89
Income \$23,780.00 (ytd)
Endowment Inc. \$2,393.17 (ytd)
Expenses \$13,030.89 (ytd)
Balance \$85,121.17 (ytd)

Our Church's Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$8,418.50 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$16,791.50
Income \$4,491.50 (ytd)
Expenses \$554.00 (ytd)
Balance \$20,729.00 (ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$32,845.83
Income \$6,275.00 (ytd)
Expenses \$1,995.12 (ytd)
Balance \$37,125.71 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$2,113.50

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



Your donation makes a difference. Thank you for helping us change lives.



Youth Sunday School Celebration

Sunday, May 5, 2024

9 am - 10 am

Last day of Sunday School!

10:15 AM WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH WILL BE SINGING &
RECOGNIZED IN OUR CELEBRATION!!!

