

# St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Rev. Ken Locke, Interim Pastor

Email: [stpaulpastor@nktelco.net](mailto: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

May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
6th Sunday of Easter

Worship Leaders

Ministers  
Interim Pastor  
Pianist (Saturday)  
Organist (Sunday)  
Liturgist (Saturday)  
Liturgist (Sunday)  
Sr. Deacon  
Sr. Elder

The Congregation  
Rev. Ken Locke  
Arianne Henry  
Arianne Henry  
Jerry Maxson  
Betty Dietrich  
June Oaks  
Shelly Zeller

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

We Gather Together

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

\*WELCOME SONG *No Matter*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God loves us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Jesus loves us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Holy Spirit loves us.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**All: Past, present, and future we are loved. Thanks be to our always loving God!**

\*HYMN *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* No. 59

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Trusting in our loving God to treat us better than we deserve, let us confess our sins to God and one another.

## \*CONFESSION

Leader: Loving God,

**People: In Jesus Christ, you gave us an example of what it means to love one another. We confess to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we have not always followed his example. We have caused harm by the things we have said and done. We have hurt others by what we have not said and not done.**

Leader: Loving God,

**People: 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.**

Leader: Draw us back to your example again and again, that we may live with one another in mutual service, and carry your love into the world.

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

*(TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)*

## \*PARDON

Leader: 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 God. Alleluia, Amen!**

## \*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory Be to the Father*

God's Word Is Proclaimed

## SCRIPTURE LESSON:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NRSV)

(NT) pg. 175

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (The Message)

“The Way of Love”

13 If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. 2 If I speak God's Word with power,

revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing.

3-7 If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.

Love doesn’t strut,

Doesn’t have a swelled head,

Doesn’t force itself on others,

Isn’t always “me first,”

Doesn’t fly off the handle,

Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn’t revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

8-10 Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled. 11 When I was an infant at my mother’s breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good. 12 We don’t yet see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won’t be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We’ll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! 13 But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

## 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

*Christian Love*

Rev. Ken Locke

## We Respond to God's Word

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(In the United Church of Christ, we practice an Open Table. You need not be a church member to commune; you need only a sincere desire to draw near to Christ and seek peace with your neighbor. Saturday and Sunday communion elements are offered by coming forward or are available on the bulletin/offering table. Grape juice is in the center circle of the tray and wine fills the cups around it.)*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Holy, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we praise you and give thanks to your name.

Leader: In love you commanded light to shine out of darkness, divided the sea and dry land, creating the vast universe and calling it good.

**People: You loved us into living, molding us in your image to live with you and one another in love. You gave us the breath of life and freedom to choose your way. You promised yourself in covenant with Abraham and Sarah, told us your purpose in commandments through Moses, and called for justice in the cry of the prophets.**

Leader: Through long generations you have been lovingly faithful to all your children.

Leader: Great and wonderful are your works, loving God. Your ways are true and just. Therefore, we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name.

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son. Freely living among us, sharing our joy and sorrow, he told your story, healed the sick and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live.

**People: We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world, and yet he is still befriending us sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with you.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we break bread and share one cup, giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ.

**People: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.**

Leader: As you raised our Lord from death, calling us with him from death to life, we joyfully give ourselves to you to live for him in joy and grateful praise.

Leader: Great indeed is the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Leader: Christ is the bread of life:

**People: When we eat this bread, and drink this cup, we proclaim the death of our risen Lord until he comes again.**

**Leader: And now, according to his commandment;**

**People: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

## WE SHARE THE FEAST

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

**Leader: Gracious and loving God, we praise you for once again nourishing us with the body and blood of Christ our Lord. We praise you for lifting us up to enjoy, for just a moment, the divine peace and serene joy of your heavenly realm.**

**People: Now, send us out in the power of the Spirit to live for others, as Christ lived for us, announcing his death for the sins of the world, and telling his resurrection to all people and nations.**

**Empower us, where experience cannot afford, to place ourselves in the suffering of others, sharing with them and so bearing witness to the suffering of Christ and his healing grace.**

**Leader: By your Spirit, draw us together into one body and join us to Christ the Lord, that we may remain his glad and faithful people until we feast with him in glory.**

**We offer our sacrifice of praise and prayers in the name of Christ himself, who taught us how to love well 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. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.****

## RECOGNIZING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & STUDENTS

### WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS OFFERTORY SENTENCES



\*OFFERATORY SONG     *We Give Thee but Thine Own*     No. 688, vs 1 & 2

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER:

\*HYMN                             *Shine, Jesus, Shine*                             No. 319

\*CHARGE & BENECTION

Leader: Let all God's people say:

People: Alleluia, Amen!

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE                     *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

## 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 $\flat$      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 $\flat$      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

# Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee 59

G G/D D7 G/D D/C G/B D7/A G G/D D

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,  
 4 Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

G C/G G7 C2 Am/C G/C Am/C G/D D7 G/D D7 G

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
 love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, join - ing all with - in its span.

D G/D D7 G/D D7 B/D# B7 Em A7 D

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er— all who live in love are thine;  
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;

G C/G G7 C2 Am/C G/C Am/C G/D D7 G D7 G

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!  
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.  
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

# Glory Be to the Father

F B♭ 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 B♭

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

# 688 We Give Thee but Thine Own

G             $\frac{G}{B}$     C2     $\frac{D7}{A}$     G             $\frac{G}{F}$      $\frac{C}{E}$      $\frac{G}{D}$      $\frac{Am}{C}$     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     $\frac{G}{B}$     C2     $\frac{D7}{A}$     Em    D    G     $\frac{G7}{B}$      $\frac{Am}{C}$              $\frac{G}{D}$     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.

## Shine, Jesus, Shine

*Unison*

A                      D/A                      A                      E/A

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing,  
2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence,  
3 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness,

A                      D/A                      A                      E/A                      D                      E/D

in the midst of the dark - ness shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the  
from the shad - ows in - to your ra - di - ance; by the blood I may  
so our fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er chang - ing from

C#m                      F#m                      D                      E/D                      C#m                      F#m

world, shine up - on us, set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
en - ter your bright - ness, search me, try me, con - sume all my dark - ness,  
glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our lives tell your sto - ry,

G                      Esus                      E                      G                      Esus                      E

shine on me, shine on me, shine on me.  
shine on me, shine on me, shine on me.  
shine on me, shine on me, shine on me.

*Refrain* A  $\frac{E}{A}$  A D Bm  $\frac{A}{C\#}$   $\frac{Bm}{D}$   $\frac{B7}{D\#}$  Esus E Esus E

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;

A  $\frac{E}{A}$  A D Bm  $\frac{A}{C\#}$   $\frac{Bm}{D}$  Bm G Esus E

blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

A  $\frac{E}{A}$  A D Bm  $\frac{A}{C\#}$   $\frac{Bm}{D}$   $\frac{B7}{D\#}$  Esus E Esus E

Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

A  $\frac{E}{A}$  A D Bm  $\frac{A}{C\#}$   $\frac{Bm}{D}$  E7 A  $\frac{D}{A}$

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

1, 2  $\frac{E}{A}$   $\frac{D}{A}$  || Final ending  $\frac{E}{A}$   $\frac{D}{A}$  A  $\frac{D}{A}$  A

## Go with Us, Lord

I G Dsus D Em II  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{Am7}{C}$  D G  $\frac{G}{B}$  Am  $\frac{F\#dim}{A}$  G  $\frac{Am7}{G}$   $\frac{D7}{F\#}$  G

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and ev - ery com - ing day,

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

that in your Spir - it strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

WORDS: Mary Jackson Cathey (1926- )  
MUSIC: Thomas Tallis (ca. 1505-1585)

TALLIS' CANON  
L.M.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Following Today's Worship Service** - There will be a reception in the assembly room meet and greet with Rev. Christian Chavarria from El Salvador.

**The Subversive Cross** was a very large cross that was placed on the center aisle in the Lutheran church (there are no UCC churches in El Salvador) during their civil war (1980-1992). Those going to church were encouraged to write their sins and the sins of the country upon this cross. The soldiers came to arrest Bishop Gomez. Someone had come and warned the Bishop that they were coming. He escaped to the German embassy and then to the USA. After three months, he returned to El Salvador and was accompanied by a delegation of American pastors of different denominations, catholic and protestant. The soldiers could not arrest him then. The cross, which was put in jail, was returned and holds a special significance for this church. The small cross on our altar today is a replica of this cross. The original cross hangs in the Resurrection Lutheran Church in San Salvador.

**Altar Flowers** are in memory of Linda Bushman by Allen Bushman and family. (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 Janice Howell (South door), Tavi Haastrup (North door), and Linda Rempe (East door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Participants-

April 28<sup>th</sup> Worship | In-Person-94, Online-27

**Open House for Rev. Locke** - Pastor Ken's last Sunday in the pulpit will be May 12th. He will be in and out of the church office from May 13th-16th. He will be on vacation May 17th-31st. On Sunday, May 12th, as well as celebrating 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 join us for fellowship and to say your goodbyes. All are welcome.

**Church Office Hours:** As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, the church office hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. The office will be closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00pm.



**Women's Service Group Gathering** - The Women's Service Group will meet on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Join the Prayer Chain!** Contact Jeff Paul at [jrpaul@nktelco.net](mailto: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](mailto:stpaulnb@nktelco.net).

**Blessing Pantry –**

**Hours:** Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm. **The Blessing Pantry's Current Needs Include:** Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Shaving Cream, Men's and Women's Deodorant, Laundry Detergent, Softener Sheets, Baby Shampoo, Diaper Cream, Baby Diapers sizes (3, 4, 5, and 6). Containers are located outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations to be dropped off. **All donations are welcome. Thank you!**

**May Events:**

**May 7<sup>th</sup>** - Elmwood Assisted Living Worship at 2:00pm. All are welcome.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>** | Church Council reports are due to the office by noon.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** - Women's Service Group meets at noon.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** - Mother's Day

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** - Rev. Locke's last day in the pulpit. Please join us in honoring him at an open house following worship.

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** - Church Council Meeting at 7:00pm in the assembly room.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** - Deadline for June monthly mailer submissions.

## Weekly Calendar ~ May 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Sunday	9:00am 10:15am	Last Day of Sunday School Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School Recognition in Person & Facebook Live
Monday	*10:00am-5:00pm 2:00pm	Office Hours Coffee and Conversation at New Bremen Coffee Shop
Tuesday	*10:00am-5:00pm 2:00pm	Office Hours Worship with Elmwood Residents at Elmwood Assisted Living
Wednesday	5:30pm-7:30pm *10:00am-5:00pm 12:00pm 1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open Office Hours Women's Service Group Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	*10:00am-5:00pm 1:00pm-3:00pm	Office Hours Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	*10:00am-5:00pm	Office Hours

*\*The church office will be closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00pm.*

## 2024 Financial Information as of April 16, 2024

<p><b>Operating Fund</b>          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)</p>	<p><b>Local Aid</b>          Beg. Balance \$16,791.50          Income \$4,491.50 (ytd)          Expenses \$554.00 (ytd)          Balance \$20,729.00 (ytd)</p>
<p><b>Building Maint &amp; Property</b>          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)</p>	<p><b>Blessing Pantry</b>          Beg. Balance \$32,845.83          Income \$6,275.00 (ytd)          Expenses \$1,995.12 (ytd)          Balance \$37,125.71 (ytd)</p>
<p><b>Our Church's Wider Mission</b>          Pledge \$25,000.00          Income \$8,418.50 (ytd)</p>	<p><b>Project of the Year</b>          Income \$2,113.5</p>

## May Mission of the Month



# CROSSROAD

Child & Family Services

Since 1883, Crossroad's mission has been to help vulnerable children and families. Today, we use our decades of expertise to help emotionally troubled children. Abuse, neglect, child trafficking, parental drug abuse, domestic violence, and brain trauma have impacted children. Crossroad encourages you to consider a thoughtful gift to help our kids.

There are many ways you can help:

- Please pray for our children, staff, and the Board of Directors.
- Your financial gifts of any amount are a blessing.
- We use gifts of merchandise for Christmas, birthdays, incentives, and more.

*(If you would like to see the full list of items,  
please contact June Oaks.)*

Thank you for your financial donations to Crossroad Child & Family Services, St. Paul UCC's monthly mission for May.

Thank you from the Mission Team.

## **E-Giving @ St. Paul**

**Online** – Make a donation on our website: [stpaulnb.org](http://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.**