

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net

Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen,
Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Ken Locke- Interim Pastor stpaulpastor@nktelco.net

Myra Hanenkratt- Council President 419-305-3652

“Who do the People say I am?”



Cover By: Gracie Henry

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 on the tables. 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

December 2 and 3, 2023
1st Sunday of Advent

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Interim Pastor

Pianist (Saturday)

Organist (Sunday)

Liturgist (Saturday)

Liturgist (Sunday)

Sr. Deacon

Sr. Elder

The Congregation

Rev. Ken Locke

Bev Plattner

Patty Ruckman

Charlotte Nelson

Caleb Felver

June Oaks

Bryan Trego

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

We Gather Together

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

LIGHTING THE 1ST ADVENT CANDLE:

Leader: Jeremiah proclaims the promise:

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

I will appoint a righteous ruler and my people will be saved.

(Light 1st Advent Candle) This is the candle of hope, and it illuminates

God's promises.

People: Lord Jesus, light of the world, come quickly.

*WELCOME SONG

Joy to the World!

No. 179 v. 1

Joy to the World!

D Em D A7 D D G A

G A F#

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

D G D G D

D D

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

D A

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 (1) and heaven and na - ture sing,

(1) and

A7 D G D Em D A7 D

G A G

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Leader: Let us lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: We are waiting for the coming of Christ,

People: At his birth and at the end of time.

Leader: We are waiting for the coming of Christ,

People: With hope in our hearts, we are waiting.

*HYMN

We Have Heard the Joyful Sound

No. 554

554 We Have Heard the Joyful Sound

N.C. F $\frac{F}{A}$ C F C

1 We have heard the joy - ful sound: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!
 2 Send it on the roll - ing tide: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!
 3 Sing a - bove the bat - tle strife: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!
 4 Give the winds a might - y voice: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!

C7 F C C7 F

Spread the ti - dings all a - round: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!
 Tell to sin - ners far and wide: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!
 By his death and end - less life: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!
 Let the na - tions now re - joice: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!

$\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ F C

Bear the news to ev - ery land, climb the steep and cross the waves;
 Sing, you is - lands of the sea! Ech - o back, you o - cean caves!
 Sing it soft - ly through the gloom, when the heart for mer - cy craves;
 Shout sal - va - tion full and free, high - est hills and deep - est caves;

C7 F $\frac{F}{E\flat}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ B \flat $\frac{F}{C}$ C C7 F

on - ward! 'tis our Lord's com - mand: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!
 Earth shall keep her ju - bi - lee: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!
 sing in tri - umph o'er the tomb: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!
 this our song of vic - to - ry: Je - sus saves! Je - sus saves!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: With an eye to our sinful past and our glorious future, let us confess our sins to our patiently waiting God.

***CONFESSION**

Leader: Eternal God, we come before you in need of grace.

People: Too often our thoughts are judgmental or condemning, tearing down rather than building up.

Too often our words are sarcastic or harsh, as harmful as weapons.

Too often our actions are motivated by selfishness, and we do not recognize the hurt or need in others.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.

(TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)

***PARDON**

Leader: The promise is sure: Christ's advent is near, and in Christ we are forgiven all our sin. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and be strengthened in all goodness.

People: In the strength of God's goodness, we proclaim the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory Be to the Father

577

Glory Be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh, 1967

F B \flat F C7 F C7 F

Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther, and the Son, and the Ho-ly Ghost;

The first system of music features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in 4/4 time and begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. Chord symbols F, Bb, F, C7, F, C7, and F are placed above the vocal line.

Gm C7 F Dm

As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The second system continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line has a half rest followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar melodic and harmonic structure. Chord symbols Gm, C7, F, and Dm are placed above the vocal line.

Gm C7 F Gm C7

world with-out end. A - men. As it was in the be-gin-ning, is

The third system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a half rest followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment continues. Chord symbols Gm, C7, F, Gm, and C7 are placed above the vocal line.

F Dm Gm C7 F

now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men.

Am Dm Gm C7 Am Dm Gm

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

C7 Am Dm Gm C7 F Bb F

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

God's Word Is Proclaimed

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 33:14-18 (OT) pg. 738

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

¹⁷For thus says the Lord: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸and the levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to make grain offerings, and to make sacrifices for all time.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 8:27-29 (NT) pg. 43

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."

TIME WITH CHILDREN

(Our youngest disciples are invited to come to the chancel steps for a special word. Afterwards, they are invited to take a worship bag and return to their seats.)

SERMON

Past? Present? Future?

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: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: Eternal God, as you led your people in ages past, you direct our journey into the future. We give you thanks that you came to us in Jesus Christ, and we eagerly await his coming again that his rule may be complete and your righteousness reign over all the world.

People: Until that glorious time, we pray for the world and all who are in it. We ask your peace in lands of war and oppression. We ask your wisdom for both national and community leaders. We ask your Spirit to reside in our communities, our churches, our families, and ourselves.

Leader: We ask your healing mercy in the bodies, minds, and spirits of all who are suffering. Especially we lift to your ears: Tavi Haastrup, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Terri Mullins, Denise Joyce, Bev Poppe, Ann Hudson, Nancy Moots, Dee Schroer, and Virginia Voress.

Leader: Gracious Lord with firm confidence we look beyond this world to the next and to that glorious time when we will feast at Christ' royal banquet, and sing his praises with the choirs of heaven.

People: By your Spirit, open our eyes to the generosity of your hand, and nurture our souls in all spiritual gifts.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION

Leader: Christ Jesus, who is the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, invites us to feast in his just and holy reign. Come share in the bread and cup that is Christ's body and blood, and be strengthened for this time of waiting.

SHARING THE FEAST

Leader: Eternal God, fill us with gratitude overflowing that we may share life and love in praise to you, God of all the ages, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, who 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.**

WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY SENTENCES

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 34
 Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures high and low.
 Praise God, in Jesus fully known.
 Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Amen.

592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH LM

Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709

Genevan Psalter, 1551

The image shows a musical score for a doxology. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise *Him, all creatures here below; Praise *Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen." The asterisked names are italicized in the original image.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER: Holy God, you have given us all we need, material and immaterial, even to the gift of your own Son. Receive now our gifts as a sign of our gratitude and faithfulness, and use them for your good work in the world. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (SUNDAY)

2024 Council Members

Matt Ranly	President
Mike Holdren	Vice President
Mimi Messick	Recording Secretary
Brenda Siefring	Treasurer
Shelly Zeller	Sr. Elder
Marlene Ahlers	Jr. Elder
June Oaks	Sr. Deacon
Open	Jr. Deacon
Lindsay Quellhorst	Trustee

Tim Nevels

Trustee

Tom Brandewie

Trustee

Gavin Quellhorst

Youth Representative

Constitutional Changes under By-Laws. Article II Administration, Section 1. Congregational Business Meetings.

3. A congregational meeting shall be held on the **second first** Sunday in Advent for the purpose of **electing approving** new Church Council members. At this meeting, also, a vote shall be taken on the proposed budget for the next year.

Section 2. Church Council – Election

2. The Church Council shall nominate one candidate from the above list of names for each expiring office and present this slate of candidates at the congregational meeting held the **second first** Sunday in Advent.

Section 4. Duties of the Officers of Church Council

7. Upon approval of the budget by Council, the budget shall be presented to the Congregation the **second first** Sunday of Advent.

Section 5. Standing Committees of the Church Council

Add the following standing committee of the Church Council:

9. Personnel Team—The Personnel Team will consist of the Senior Pastor, Council President (or their appointee), and two members of the congregation. The congregational members of the team will serve a two-year term and one will chair the team. They are responsible to handle all personnel issues as they arise. This includes finding substitute staff to cover vacations, illness or other leave of absences. They will also conduct staff reviews and renew staff contracts at the beginning of each year as well as interview and hire any staff replacements.

Come, Thou Almighty King 148

F A Gm Bb F C F C E F

1 Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy
 2 Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy
 3 Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

C7 G C7 E F C N.C. C F C C7

name to sing, help us to praise: Fa - ther, all
 might - y sword, our prayer at - tend: come, and thy
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour: thou who al -
 prais - es be hence, ev - er - more! Thy sov - ereign

F F2 F C F C7 F F2 F

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess:
 might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

N.C. F Bb F Gm F C7 F

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

*BENEDICTION

Leader: Let all God's people say:

People: **Alleluia, Amen!**

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* No.154 v. 1

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 154

Unison

Em Bm G Am Am G D G D Bm C G

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Am Em Bm Em Am Am Em B7 Em Bm C D Em

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

D Bm G G Am Am G D G D Em Bm G

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 cause us in her ways to go.
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Am Am G D Em D G G C G Am Em D Em

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

*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 Tom Broerman and Ronda Broerman by John & Gin Voress.

After Sunday's worship, please take home your altar flowers. They will be kept in the church office after Sunday.

Circle of Friends Cards for you to sign are for Dorothy Schneider (South door), Teresa Joyce (North door), and Mim Donnerberg (East door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Participants- November 26 th Worship In-Person-84, Online-27
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New Office Hours- Please welcome Jenn Snider as our new administrator! Starting December 4th, the new office hours will be M-F, 9:00am–Noon. We are looking for volunteers to answer the phones and do light office work M-W, 9:00am–Noon. Anyone who would like to regularly volunteer their time and talent should please contact the office or Myra. Thank you!

Church Nursery Champion- We are looking for a nursery champion. If you feel called to be that person, please contact the church office. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer on a Communion Sunday (First Sunday of each month) to help in the nursery, please contact the church office until a champion is found.

December Monthly Mission: UCC Christmas Fund

"GRACE UPON GRACE": the December Mission is the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross. Our gifts help retired clergy, church staff and their surviving spouses to pay bills, maintain their health insurance and meet emergency needs. These servants of the church have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering us. Now through the Christmas Fund we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them. "And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace" John 1:16.

The Mission Team thanks you for your continued generosity!!

DECEMBER EVENTS

December 5th | Elmwood Worship- starts at 2:00pm. All are welcome to assist Rev. Locke with this wonderful service. Please meet him by 1:45pm at Elmwood.

December 7th | Deadline for Council Report Submissions- Please email your reports for the council meeting to the church office by Thursday, December 7th. Thank you!

December 10th | Children's Christmas Program- We hope you can join us for a special Christmas program put on by the youth at the 10:15am service!

December 10th | Mission Team Meeting- will be held in the assembly room following worship.

December 12th | Church Council Meeting- will be held in the assembly room following the staff and council Christmas dinner at 6pm.

December 13th | Youth Group Christmas Caroling- Please arrive at church at 6:15pm. After caroling, we will end up at DQ with a pick up time of 8:45-9pm at DQ.

December 14th | Women's Service Group- will meet for lunch at 11:00am at the Coffee Shop. Following lunch, we will go to the church to prepare gift bags

for our homebound members. Members are asked to bring two dozen cookies. All are welcome. Call Sally Dicke 419-629-2720 for more information.

December 14th | Year End Finance Meeting- will be held at 6:00pm in the assembly room.

December 15th | Deadline for Monthly Mailer Submissions- Please submit any information you would like included in the January mailer to the church office email stpaulnb@nktelco.net by Monday, December 15th. Thank you!

December 17th | Sunday School's Christmas Party- Join us for a Christmas Party at 9am! We look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth with you during Sunday School.

December 17th | Worship Team Meeting- will be held following worship in the assembly room.

December 17th | Christmas Caroling- at 1:30pm. Come and join us in spreading holiday cheer through the gift of songs! Please see the insert in the back of the bulletin for more details.

December 20th | Youth Group Dinner- Please meet at church at 6pm and we will carpool to Do Good Restaurant. If you would like to contribute to the "tip of the month" at Do Good, please bring money with you. Pick-up time will be around 8:45-9pm at the church.

December 24th | No Sunday School- for Christmas Break from Dec. 24th- Dec. 31st. Sunday School will start back up on January 7th at 9am.

December 24th | Christmas Services- This Sunday, we have three worship services lined up. Join us at our regular 10:15am service, then from 5 to 7pm for drop-in communion at 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, & 7:00pm. Finally, a Candlelight Service at 11:00pm. Please see the back of the bulletin for more details. We look forward to sharing these meaningful moments with you.

December 27th | No Youth Activities- for Christmas Break from Dec. 27th-Jan. 3rd. Wednesday youth activities will start back up on January 10th.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

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 Myra Hanenkratt.

2024 Altar Flower Chart is posted. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like. You may also call the church office to sign up. 2024 altar flower price will be \$40.00. Thank you.

St Paul UCC Job Openings-The following positions are available: Music Director, Bell Choir Director, and Chancel Choir Director. Interested applicants are asked to submit a resume and cover letter, indicating position applying for, to the church office, attention Myra Hanenkratt, Council President.

The Music Director/Bell Choir Director/Chancel Choir Director serves part time to recruit, rehearse and perform bell and chancel choir music. The Music Director works closely with the Worship Team.

Blessing Pantry-is open during these hours - **Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm.** The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome–Blessing Pantry Needs- Paper Towels, Kleenex, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste-Adult, Deodorant (Men’s and Women’s), Shaving Cream, Vaseline, Softener Sheets, Shampoo, Conditioner, Dish Soap, Sanitary Napkins/Tampons, Diaper Cream/Desitin, Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo, Diapers (Sizes: Newborn and 1-6). Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

Want to be part of the Prayer Chain? Please contact Prayer Chain Champion, Jeff Paul at jrpaul@nktelco.net or 419-305-0584. The St. Paul Prayer Chain has two formats: texting and email. All are welcome.

2023 St. Paul Directory now available.



**Pick up your directory
and/or picture at the
church office.**

**Extra directories are
available at a cost of \$5.**

Calendar-Week of December 3, 2023

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship w/ Holy Communion In Person & via Facebook Live
	10:15am	Congregational Meeting
Monday	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-NB Coffee Shop
Tuesday	2:00pm	Elmwood Worship
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:30pm	Splash
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm	Confirmation
	7:00pm	Youth Group
Thursday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed

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.



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

@ 1:30 PM

Come as individuals or families. All ages are invited to join a group from our church Christmas Caroling to members that may be shut-in or could use an uplifting spirit during the Christmas Season.

We will meet in the Assembly Room and will divide in groups to carol to members close or in New Bremen. Carpooling will be available.

After caroling (at approximately 3pm), we will meet in the Assembly Room for refreshments.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th, **5:00 – 7:00 pm**

Our 5:00 – 7:00 pm Christmas Eve worship will be a modified service of lessons and carols. It is **designed for individuals and families, who may be running to any number of events, to have a few minutes of calm and relaxation.** A few minutes to remember the reason we celebrate and receive spiritual nurture.

Communion will be offered at 5:30, 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00!

Before each communion there will be a short time of Scripture and favorite Christmas Carols.

Come when you can, stay as long as you like.



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th, **11:00 pm**

Our 11:00 pm Christmas Eve worship will be **our more formal, traditional worship service with the added joy of candlelight.**

We'll hear the old, yet always new, story of Jesus' birth and affirm again its importance for our lives. We will again sing "Silent Night", in both German and English, and give thanks for Jesus' life on earth as we look forward to Christ's return in glory. Please join us for this service of solemnity and joy!