



S66 W14325 JANESVILLE RD • MUSKEGO WI 53150 • WELS • 414.422.0320 • WWW.STPAULMUSKEGO.ORG

THE WAY IT WAS
MARY
THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD
December 17 and 18, 2016

With Mary you'll see that God is bigger than all your problems and struggles. Put your trust in him and you will stand amazed at what he will do!

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 23, vv. 1-3

Oh Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

M In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

M We light four Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.
C **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**
M We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.
C **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**
M Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
C **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Four Advent candles are lit.

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, God's Word speaks of humankind's universal condition:
C **There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who is good, not even one.**
M God had every right to disown us and cast us out of his presence forever. Instead, he chose to show mercy. Rather than forsaking us, he became one of us. He carried our sin to the cross so that we could live with him forever. Let us humble ourselves, therefore, before our God and confess our sins to him, so that we can be assured of his forgiving love in Christ.

C Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

RESPONSE

Lord Have Mercy



M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

M The works of the Lord are great and glorious. His name is worthy of praise.

SONG OF PRAISE 23, v. 4

Oh Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Lord Jesus, you chose to become one of us. You are not a God who is far from us and unmoved by our daily struggles.

C **You are intimately involved in every moment of our lives.**

M You are truly “with us” —not only on our side but also by our side.

C **This Christmas season help us experience and share the good news that with you as our Savior we are never alone.**

M Jesus, we pray in your name. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Romans 1:1-7, Bible page 1126

Paul opens his letter to the Romans with the amazing revelation that in Christ we become the vessels God uses to bring his grace to the world.

ANTHEM (Saturday)

Mary Did You Know? *Saved By One*

PSALM OF THE DAY (Sunday)

Psalms 24, Hymnal page 73

Lift up your heads, O you gates, that the King of glory may come in!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-56, Bible page 1025

The angel announces to Mary that she will be the vessel God uses to bring his Son, the Savior, into this world.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY 24

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

SERMON

Mary

*Pastor Jeffrey Bonack
with daughter, Rose Bonack*

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.**

He ascended into 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Saturday*)
(*Sunday*)

Savior of the Nations, Come, *Bruce and Betty Margraff*
What Child Is This? *Jill Mitchell / Nicole Greanya*
arr. by Chip Davis

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

M You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Special prayers and intercessions.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

HYMN 21

Hosanna to the Coming Lord

CLOSING PRAYER

- M** Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, to take on our flesh so that he might live and die for us.
- C** **Empower us to follow Christ's example of humility and willingness to serve. Help us, as your people, to work together to share the hope that we have found in him.**
- M** We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

BLESSING

- M** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER *(Sunday 7:45 am) Pastor David Kuehl (Sunday 9:15 am) Pastor Peter Panitzke*

ORGANIST *Nicole Greanya*



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of December 19, 2016

| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| MON | 10:00 am 7:00 pm | Walking Club (Trinity Gym) The Story Bible Study (Grace Room) |
| TUE | 9:15 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm | Ministerial Team Meeting Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library) Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony) New Member Bible Study (Faith Room) |
| WED | 4:30 pm | 6 th and 7 th Grade Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes |
| THURS | 6:30 am 11:00 am 10:00 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm | Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Lutheran Elementary School Dismissal for Christmas Break Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Service Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Service |
| SAT | 12:00 pm 2:00 pm 4:00 pm 6:00 pm 10:30 pm | Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service |
| SUN | 7:45 am 9:15 am 10:45 am | Christmas Day Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion Christmas Day Contemporary Service with Holy Communion |



UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

New Year's Eve Service: 5:00 pm with Holy Communion

New Year's Day Traditional Services: 7:45 and 9:15 am

New Year's Day Contemporary Service: 10:45 am (no Bridge service)

*** There will be no Wednesday worship service on December 28.*

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Our youth ministries (Kids Club, Boost and Pulse) and our Sunday morning adult Bible study will not meet on the Sundays of December 25 and January 1.

The church administration office will be open from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday, from December 23 through January 2. The office will be closed December 26 and 30 and January 2. Please contact a member of our Ministerial Team directly if a need arises.

GIFTS FOR THE SAVIOR

WISH LIST

Often God's people want to give special gifts beyond regular offerings as memorials, gifts in honor of loved ones, or simply because of a passion for some area of ministry during the Christmas season. The below Wish List items are not essential to our ministry immediately, but would greatly benefit our ministry.

If you would like to give toward a wish list item, clearly mark your envelope "Wish List" with the title of the item you would like to donate toward. You can also use our online giving option to give toward a Wish List item.



| Item | Est. Cost | Received | Still Needed |
|--|-----------|----------|--------------|
| Grand Piano | \$42,000 | | Fully Funded |
| Ridge Cinema Advertising | \$6,500 | \$550 | \$5,950 |
| School Window Replacement | \$10,000 | \$110 | \$9,890 |
| Centennial Gym Safety Mats | \$4,450 | \$0 | \$4,450 |
| Trinity Gym Floor-to-Ceiling Room Divider | \$11,000 | \$0 | \$11,000 |
| Garden Homes Lutheran School Library Books | \$1,000 | \$0 | \$1,000 |
| Seasonal Worship Banners | \$800 | \$0 | \$800 |
| Living Nativity Supplies | \$1,000 | \$0 | \$1,000 |

2017 PLANS FOR GIVING

If you have not yet returned your 2017 Plan for Giving, please do so by Christmas. Copies are in the Welcome Center. Help St. Paul's be "All In!" to accomplish as much as possible. If plans for giving indicate a 3 to 5% increase in giving, it will allow us to expand our church and school staff to fulfill our mission "to bring every person within our area of influence closer to Christ."

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Give a gift to our teachers by providing additional funds for workshops and courses. Gifts of any size are most welcome! Mark your gift "Teacher Professional Development."

PROVIDE A CHRISTMAS MEAL

Our Food Pantry Team will be distributing food to needy families within our congregation and community this week. If you know of a family in need or if your family would benefit from a Christmas food basket, please contact Coordinator Steve Graham at steve0828@hotmail.com or 262-232-0928 or Pastor Kuehl at dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 121, before Monday.

ST. PAUL'S HOMEBOUND

Since many of you like to remember our homebound members with a card, note, or phone call at this time of the year, a list of our 40 shut-in members has been placed at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kuehl or any visitor who serves on our Homebound Visitation Ministry Team. Their names and numbers are included on the roster.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISM

Sinneus Thomas Giles, son of Michael and Crystal (nee Reidy) Giles, was born November 11, 2016, and will be baptized at the 10:45 worship service Sunday, December 18. May God bless Sinneus in his saving faith.

FLOWERS

The flowers beautifying the altar were given in loving memory of Bonnie Banach from her husband, Ray Banach, and family.

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home, Ruth Kurth at Brenwood Park, and Georgette Meyer at Layton Terrace. Katherine Olson is at St. Francis, Kay Ross at Froedtert, and Payson Vahovick at Children's, and Kathy Rasmussen has been transferred to Franciscan House in South Milwaukee.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Jodie Crosby, Sharon Dreyer, Rick Drobka, Shelly Eggert, Namine Eiche, Monica Gawlik, Daniel Holtz, Dan Italiano, Dawn Jahns, Pat Johnson, Jacob Melso, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Jeanne Steinbrecher, Alissa Thompson, and Wayne Wardin.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

932 people attended last week's worship services. 263 attended the midweek Advent services.

ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS – THANK YOU!

We thank Emily Meitner, Jeanne Steinbrecher's former students, Stoney Creek Adult Community, and Aleah Rueling for organizing our Advent soup suppers this year. God be praised for your generosity in service.

WISCONSIN AND MILWAUKEE PARENTAL SCHOOL CHOICE DECISION

Last Sunday, St. Paul's voters' assembly approved our participation in the parental school choice programs. One of our first steps as we enter these programs is to make sure that all those already connected to St. Paul's are aware of this program and consider their eligibility. In this past week, three congregation families currently not attending our school have informed us that they may benefit from this program and would like more information. We give thanks to God that this decision is already bearing fruit. A document with income eligibility information for both programs is available at the Welcome Center.

If you believe you may be eligible and are interested in having your child attend St. Paul's 4K – 8th grade (the choice programs do not include 3K), please contact Mr. Fitzsimmons as soon as possible at sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 118. If you are unsure, or have questions, please contact him as well.

CHRISTMAS FOR TEENS UNDER GOD

First annual TUG Christmas party is Sunday, December 18, starting at 6:15 pm. Teens Under God will be celebrating Christmas together at the MUG (Muskego Urban Gatheringplace). Wear an ugly Christmas sweater for a chance to win a sweet gift basket! Bring a silly (or practical!) gift to be exchanged in our white elephant gift exchange. Bring your holiday cheer and enjoy laughter, holiday tunes and films, and a wide range of Christmas and cold-weather goodies! Questions? Contact Vicar Phil Loescher at ploescher@stpaulmuskego.org or (262) 305-8769.

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST IN 2017

JANUARY SERMON SERIES – AHA!

Have you ever had one of those moments when something just clicked? Maybe you were angsty over some decision or you didn't know how to solve a problem. And then, just like that, it all became clear. Suddenly you wonder why you didn't see it earlier.

The world we live in has some pretty serious issues with God and the Bible. There are things he does that just don't seem to make sense. It's like, in some ways, God is hiding from us. But every once and a while he pulls back that veil and helps us see and understand something we've never understood before. These are big moments when suddenly God's plan and God's great love become clearer.

In this four-week Epiphany series we'll explore world-changing, life-altering "aha" moments in the lives of a number of God's New Testament followers. It is our prayer that these "aha" moments will also help to bring clarity and understanding to us and to our spiritual journey today.

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12).



| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|--|
| Christmas Eve | Precious | The soul finds its worth |
| January 8 | Prejudice | Valuing people different from us |
| January 15 | Peace | Finding the solutions to guilt and shame |
| January 22 | Purpose | Experiencing a life worth living |
| January 29 | Pleasure | Understanding a joy that nothing can destroy |

THE PLACE TO BEGIN: FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE STUDY

Begins Tuesday, January 17, at 7:00 pm

Pastor Panitzke will be teaching this fifteen-week study of the major themes of the Bible. This course is both a Bible introduction study and prepares an individual for membership in the congregation. Register by indicating your interest on the back of your Connection Card today.

GO DEEPER: STAND FIRM IN THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD

The letter of 1 Peter breathes with a message of living hope, aimed at those who feel more and more like strangers in a world that's not their home. Peter reassures exiles by reminding them of their royal identity, their sacred calling, and its related cross. He teaches them to see the extraordinary in the ordinary and comforts them as they live this refugee life. Through God's strong Word he helps them stand firm in the true grace. Join Pastor Paul Wentland, president of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, on Sundays beginning January 8 in the Grace Room at 9:15 am.

GO FARTHER: FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Financial Peace University is a nine-week DVD-based study providing a biblical approach to personal financial management. The presenter, Dave Ramsey, is a nationally-known speaker who has helped millions get out of debt. We plan to offer this course in the new year. Indicate your interest by marking the back of your Connection Card. One St. Paul's couple shared this comment: "The recommendation of Financial University was a life saver for [our marriage] helping us understand each other." We hope other individuals and couples can experience this blessing!

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

WHAT MAKES TEENS TICK?

This fun, lively, and informative presentation about adolescents will give you powerful new insights to assist your vital parenting/grandparenting task. What's better, it's only two sessions: Wednesdays, January 11 and 18, from 4:30 until 6:00 pm in St. Paul's Faith Room at church. "What Makes Teens Tick?" will look at what's going on in an adolescent physiologically, psychologically, and spiritually. It will reveal the three big questions all teens want answered. It will explore the journey to independence and how that journey involves tremendous peer pressure and strong urges to break free. It will leave you with three simple parenting rules that can make a huge difference in your relationship with your adolescent child/grandchild. So come, learn, and grow. The sessions are presented by Dr. Joel Nelson, who has served families and teens for 38 years at local and national levels.

ST. PAUL'S TEEN BASKETBALL LEAGUE TO START

The WELS High School Boys' Basketball League begins in January and continues through the end of February. Historically this means 7-8 league games plus a tournament. League games are Sunday afternoons at various WELS churches. Those desiring to play in the league must be in high school (grades 9-12) and confirmed members of our church body. A player must also be in good standing academically, spiritually, and socially, and cannot be playing on his high school's team.

St. Paul's members, Andrew Lehman, Randy Jacks, Art Flater, and Youth Ministry Assistant Phil Loescher will be the team's coaches/managers. Practice dates and times will be determined and announced soon.

Registration forms are in the Welcome Center and are to be returned by December 25. For more information contact Dr. Nelson at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145, or jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.

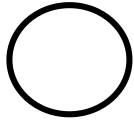
AWAKE AND ALIVE



Awake and Alive is a Christian event ministry for the 18-25-year-old generation in southeast Wisconsin. Awake and Alive exists to encourage this generation in their relationship with Jesus and to bring the healing and hope of Christ to their communities. A winter gathering is planned for Sunday, January 15 at 5:30 pm in the Trinity Café and Gym. More information can be found at awakealive.com.

5TH GRADE EXTRAVAGANZA

Our mission partner, Wisconsin Lutheran High School, is hosting a 5th Grade Extravaganza on Sunday, January 29, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. The evening is free to all 5th grade students and their parents and includes an Italian dinner and a showcase of what Wisconsin Lutheran High School is all about. Plus, a Chromebook will be given away! Reserve your fifth grader's spot by January 20 at www.wlhs.org/page/registration. Through your offerings at St. Paul's, \$135,000 is given annually to support the mission and operations of Wisconsin Lutheran High School.



GroupWork

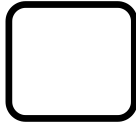
Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for us in Connector Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

A TEENAGER MODELS MATURE FAITH

1. Think back to your teenage years. Give an example of an important, adult-like act you did or decision you made that had a real impact on you and/or others. At the time, how did you feel about what you did? How do you look at it now? How did people around you at the time feel about what you did?
2. Read Luke 1:26-56.
 - What were Mary and her family's very exciting plans for her life?
 - Were these plans godly and good? Explain.
 - What was God's very exciting plan for Mary's life?
 - How would God's plan change/impact Mary's life?
 - How could Mary have reacted to this divine change of plan?
 - How does the way she did react provide a great faith-model for us?
3. Re-read Luke 1:37. Some translations show this verse as, "Nothing is impossible with God."
 - Why would the point of these words (no matter which translation is used) bring such comfort to Mary amid the good, bad, ugly, and unbelievable that would have surrounded her pregnancy?
 - Why might the words of Jeremiah 29:11 have been recalled by Mary and rejoiced over during this period in her life?
 - How does Jeremiah 29:11 relate to all mankind through what Mary was birthing into the world?
 - How would Jeremiah 29:11 and Luke 1:37 bring Mary comfort 32 or so years from her teens?
 - When have the words of these two Scripture passages brought comfort to you amid the good, bad, ugly, and unbelievable in your life?
4. Re-read Luke 1:46-55. In these verses, Mary glorifies (which means magnifies and makes large) her God in all his love, grace, and power.
 - What specific magnifying remarks does Mary make?
 - Which remark from a sinful Mary is the most magnifying?
 - How do you "make large" your God?
 - How do you sometimes make him small?
 - REACT: The bigger God is to you, the more peace and joy you will find in your life.
5. Mary, a teenager, was given a great assignment by God. How could we use the story of Mary to motivate believing teenagers we know? How might 1 Timothy 4:12 also help?

PRAY Christ the Lord to us is born, Alleluia! On this joyous Christmas morn, Alleluia!
Of a virgin lowly, He, the King most holy. Born this day to save us.
Prophesied in days of old, Alleluia! God has sent him as foretold, Alleluia!
Of a virgin lowly, He, the King most holy. Born this day to save us. Hymn 59, vv. 1-2



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

Luke 1:26-56 (page 1025)

Mary—The Handmaid of the Lord

Mary's lessons for us...

...You're never poor when you're s_____ rich.

...Life doesn't always play out like we d_____ it will.

...Our lives are not our o_____.

...God often puts d_____ in front of us that we would not walk through if it were up to us.

...B_____!

...God uses his W_____ to bless you with the gift of faith.

...The b_____ God is to you, the more peace and joy you'll experience.

...Praise God for the times we do get to s_____ the amazing things he's doing for us!

...Jesus' greatest pain (and Mary's too) brought our greatest h_____.

Next Steps

- **God's Plans Not My Plans.** Review Joseph's story (Genesis 39-50). What door is God asking you to walk through that you're not sure you want to walk through? Try to imagine what God's plan might be. Ask God for the wisdom and strength to walk through that door.
- **My Life Is Not My Own.** Think about what that phrase means. What would change if you lived every day as if your life were not your own? Pick one thing that comes to mind and make the change.
- **How Big Is My God?** There are many believers who have experienced how big God really is (Abraham, Daniel, the three men in the fiery furnace). Think of something "big" that God can do in your life or the life of someone you know and pray boldly for it!
- **When You See It.** Mary held the fulfillment of God's amazing promise in her arms. Praise God for something amazing that he has done in your life.