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GENEROUS

GOD... PEOPLE... VISION...

November 25, 26, and 29, 2017

We sometimes think that we can't be "generous" because generosity inherently means giving away lots of something and we don't necessarily have "a lot" of anything. But generosity, as we've learned, is a matter of the heart and is measured in sacrifice.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 242, vv. 1, 3, 5

Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices

BAPTISMS (Sunday 9:15 am)

Hymnal page 12

Jason Jonathan Lecus

Son of Jonathan and Ashley (nee Jahns) Lecus, born November 1, 2017

Reid Timothy Schell

Son of Timothy and Jamie (nee Jahns) Schell, born September 17, 2017

M In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.



M Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Apostle Paul exhorted the young pastor, Timothy, to command those who are rich not to be arrogant and put our hope in wealth, which is so uncertain but to put our hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

C **Instead, we are to put our hope in God alone, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.**

M Although wealth is a great blessing, it also becomes a great stumbling block to our faith and to our relationship with those around us. Greed and selfishness creep into our sinful hearts and build walls that separate us from God and others. Since healing and the power to change can only be found in Christ and his forgiveness, let us humble ourselves before God and confess our sins to him.

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.**

M God is a just and holy God, full of grace and mercy. With an everlasting love he gave his only Son as a 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.



M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE 460, v. 5

How Can I Thank You, Lord

**O Father, God of love, Now hear my supplication;
O Savior, Son of God, Accept my adoration;
O Holy Spirit, be My ever-faithful guide
That I may serve you here And there with you abide.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



M Let us pray.
O merciful Creator, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

C In your overwhelming generosity you have provided all that we need both physically and spiritually.

M Make us thankful for your loving providence. Help us remember every day the richness of your grace,

C that we, too, may be inspired to live generously.

M We pray this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever.



FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 17:7-16, Bible page 353

God provides for the needs of his people—sometimes in miraculous ways.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia. Alleluia! I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Alleluia (*Galatians 2:20*).



SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 8:1-9, Bible page 1161

Even in the midst of financial struggle, the Corinthians Christians displayed overwhelming generosity.

HYMN OF THE DAY 486

Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us

SERMON

Mark 12:41-44, Bible page 1017

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Sunday 9:15*)

The Temple Rang with Golden Coins, *Michele and Lydia Eiche*
by Jon Eiche

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 6.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 479
484**

**Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me
Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly**

CLOSING PRAYER

M O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER *(Sunday) Pastor David Kuehl*

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.

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.

We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. Following the Promise is currently being held on Tuesday evenings in the Faith Room with a new class beginning May 23. Register on the back of your Connection Card.

If you are a member of St. Paul's or a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to express our common confession by communing with us. You may wish to use the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on page 156 of Christian Worship to examine yourself. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card and placing it in the offering plate.

The light colored cups in the center of the individual cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine. Gluten-free wafers are located in the trays on the Communion rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform an usher as you approach the rail. The first pews in the left center section are reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail, and we kindly ask those who desire to be communed privately to use these pews.

Your Ministerial Staff

Office (414) 422-0320

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0501
Mr. Randy Fink	Ext. 120	rfink@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons	Ext. 118	sfitsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Pastor David Kuehl	Ext. 121	dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org	(262) 679-1393
Mrs. Emily Krill	Ext. 123	ekrill@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Dr. Joel Nelson	Ext. 145	jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Pastor Peter Panitzke	Ext. 122	ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 350-1436
Mrs. Sally Wallner	Ext. 294	swallner@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of November 27, 2017

MON	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Woodwind Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
TUE	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Ministerial Team Meeting Ladies Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony) Volleyball League (Trinity Gym) <i>Following the Promise</i> Membership Bible Study (Faith Room)
WED	1:00 pm 4:30 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Through the Bible in a Year (Grace Room) Public School Confirmation Classes Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am 10:00 am 6:45 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Stoney Creek Bible Study: <i>The Bible, Luther, and Forgiveness</i> (Stoney Creek) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice Pickleball League (Trinity Gym)
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am	Worship Service Worship Service Grace Room Bible Study Parents Club (School Classroom 8) Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries The Bridge Communion The Bridge Worship Service

HOSPITALIZED

Daniel Dockter is at Wheaton Franciscan in Franklin, and Milton Baas is rehabbing at Hales Corners Care Center.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Jodie Crosby, Sharon Dreyer, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Janelle Gray, John Hansen, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Keith Jahns, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Marvin Pellmann, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Sergeant Christopher Verhein (protecting our country).

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

REMEMBERING ST. PAUL'S HOMEBOUND

A list of our homebound members is at the Welcome Center if you would like to remember them with a card or phone call at this time of year.

GIFT TREE FOR MUSKEGO CHILDREN AND ELDERLY IN NEED — THROUGH DECEMBER 1

In partnership with the Muskego Food Pantry and Muskego Health Care Center, we are gathering gifts for many of the most vulnerable residents in Muskego. Participate in any of these ways:

1. Select a tag from the Christmas tree in the lobby. Tags have names of children and nursing home patients. Return the wrapped gifts by December 1. Gifts are priced \$30 - \$50.
2. If you don't have time to shop, we have volunteer shoppers that are happy to do the purchasing and wrapping. Any dollar amount is welcome and you can even select which tag(s) you would like to sponsor.
3. Adopt-A-Family: Let Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner know of your interest or note it on the Connection Card and you will be contacted with more information. Adopting a family would involve about a \$450 investment.

St. Paul's Christmas postcards, which include our Christmas worship service times, will be provided for you to include with your gifts. Please contact Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner (414) 422-0320, ext. 294, with questions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATING — SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Join in decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 2, at 9:30 am. Contact Pastor Bonack at jbonack@stpaulmuskego.com or text Emily Krill at (262) 510-8109 for more information.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS — SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

St. Paul's 2017 *Christmas for Kids* is Saturday, December 9, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Trinity Café and Gym. Register online at www.stpaulmuskego.org, complete the back of the Connection Card, or contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org. *Christmas for Kids* is for children ages 3-12. Parents are welcome to stay and enjoy the morning. Children are asked to bring a non-perishable food item as their "ticket" for the morning. Contact Dr. Nelson at (414)-422-0320, ext. 145 with questions.

EVANGELISM FOR EVERYONE: MARTIN LUTHER ON VOCATION

God grants us our place in life to glorify him and to help people in need, especially in the need to know Jesus as their Savior. Join Pastor Mike Hintz, director of the WELS Commission on Evangelism, for this 4-week study —Sundays, November 26 through December 17, in the Grace Room at 9:15 am.

HOUSE OR HOME: GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR BIBLICAL PARENTING

Join School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons as he leads this Parents Club study, Sundays at 9:15 am in school classroom 9.

NOVEMBER TUG TALK

Sunday, November 26, at 6:30 pm, is the next Teens Under God (TUG) Talk in the Trinity Café. A 30-year-old St. Paul's member, who contemplated suicide when younger, will share his story and express how glad he is to still be alive, and entertain questions. It will be a riveting and awakening session.

BOYS CHURCH BASKETBALL

Teen boys, not on their high school's team, who are interested in playing in the high school church league should contact Dr. Nelson by December 1 at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.

A GENEROUS VISION

A GENEROUS GOD CREATES GENEROUS PEOPLE WITH A GENEROUS VISION



A GENEROUS VISION THAT PROVIDES FOR OUR WORKERS

In 2017, our staff grew largely through special gifts and bequests. In 2018, our goal for the General Fund will be to grow in giving to bring these staffing additions (Resident Missionary, Volunteer Coordinator, Extended Learning Coordinator) into our regular operating budget. We also hope to increase our support of our synod and high school. All this is possible only through your generous gifts to the **General Fund**.

A GENEROUS VISION THAT IMPROVES THE FACILITIES GOD HAS GIVEN

In 2018, we will be celebrating our school's 50th anniversary along with the 60th anniversary of the Centennial Gym construction. We plan to use this occasion to begin a multi-year effort to enhance our campus for future ministry. Initial plans include the paving of the playground/parking lot behind the school, improvements to the Centennial Gym, and replacing our school's aging heating units with heating/air conditioning to provide a space better suited for the year-round ministry that St. Paul's offers. We are still developing cost estimates, but we know it will be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. If you would like to give a year-end gift toward these facility enhancements, mark your gift **Anniversary Fund**.

A GENEROUS VISION THAT PREPARES FOR FUTURE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

What ministry opportunities lie just beyond our vision? We don't know what the future holds, but we do know that we already face facility challenges like lack of office space as well as our School of Early Learning childcare ministry regularly turning away families because of no room.

To prepare ourselves for future opportunities, we want to eliminate our mortgage of \$1.9 million as soon as possible. Our monthly payments of \$19,000 are funded completely through special gifts to the Mortgage Fund. Additional principal payments of \$13,000 per month could shorten the length of the loan from 10 years to 5 years and save over \$200,000 in interest! Please remember the **Mortgage Fund** in your giving plans.

WHAT IS YOUR GENEROUS VISION FOR 2018?

Do your offerings reflect the "Generous Real U" that we heard of in last week's message? Is there more you would like to do? Two courses are being offered in January to help you reach your personal financial goals and to help you fulfill your generous vision. Indicate interest in **Financial Peace University** or **The Legacy Journey** on your Connection Card.

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S



WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

“What the world needs now, is love, sweet love.”

Ever since Hal David and Burt Bacharach wrote this song in 1965, countless singers have reminded us love is “the only thing that there’s just too little of.”

God knew that too. That’s why God gave the gift of Love at Christmas.

But God’s love is not a sentimental wish. It is God facing the reality of our need. It is God revealing to us how loveless we are. It is God stepping in to provide hope for the hopeless. It is God giving himself for us. Join us this Christmas season as the prophet Isaiah reveals to us that God gave us “What the World Needs Now.”

Dec 3	What the World Needs Now is Truth	Isaiah 63:16 – 64:8
Dec 10	What the World Needs Now is Humility	Isaiah 40:1-11
Dec 17	What the World needs Now is Hope	Isaiah 61:1-11
Dec 24	What the World Needs Now is God Himself	Isaiah 9:2-7
Dec 25	What the World Needs Now is Peace	Isaiah 52:7-10

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERIES – CAROLS FOR THE NEWBORN KING

3:30 and 7:00 pm; soup supper 4:30 to 6:30 pm

The great hymns of Christmas take us to the center of our faith in Christ. In our midweek Advent devotions we will take a closer look at three beloved carols for the newborn King.

December 6	Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel	Hymn 23
December 13	Savior of the Nations, Come	Hymn 2
December 20	What Child Is This	Hymn 67

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Weekend Worship on December 23 and 24 (4th Sunday in Advent)

- Traditional Worship Service: Saturday at 5:00 pm
- Traditional Worship Service: Sunday at 8:00 am
- Contemporary Worship Service: Sunday at 10:00 am



Christmas Eve Festival Worship Services: 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, and 10:00 pm

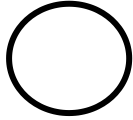
Christmas Day Festival Worship Services with Holy Communion: 8:00 and 10:00 am

** The Lutheran Elementary School Christmas services are Friday, December 22, at 5:00 and 7:00 pm.

There will be no Bridge service Christmas weekend.

There will be no Wednesday worship service on December 27.

New Year’s Eve and Day schedule will be the regular weekend worship schedule with Holy Communion



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. What are you thankful for?

2. This week's message is about measuring generosity. In your lifetime, have you seen more people use measurements more for encouragement or more for judgement?

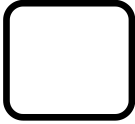
3. Read Mark 12:41-44
 - What is so striking about her tiny gift?
 - Why do you think Jesus wanted the disciples – who had already given up their homes, family, and career to follow him – to understand the widow's generosity?

4. Have you ever been treated with the same kind of generosity the widow showed in her giving? Share your story with the group.

5. The Bible is full of stories of radical generosity like the widow's. Can you think of 2-3 other accounts that encourage us to measure generosity like God does?

6. Which method of godly measurement is most exciting to you:
 - God measures by the size (attitude) of the heart.
 - God measures by the size of the sacrifice.
 - God measures by the size of its impact.

7. Where in your life this week do you see an opportunity to measure generosity differently?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

A Generous God Creates Generous People With a Generous Vision

How Do We Measure Generosity? Mark 12:41-44

**We measure generosity by the size of the gift.
God measures generosity by the size of the heart.**

Which is more impressive? “Ting, ting” or “Clingity, clingity, cling, clang, clang?”

Jesus can see what we cannot. He saw the f_____ in this woman’s heart.

Her heart had been won over by G_____ great generosity.

By the “size of the heart” we mean the size of our g_____.

**We measure generosity by the size of the gift.
God measures generosity by the size of the sacrifice.**

Jesus can see what we cannot. He saw her l_____ circumstances.

The widow gave a_____ that she had. She felt it!

By the “size of the sacrifice” we mean the courage to exer_____ our faith and trust in God.

**We measure generosity by the size of the gift.
God measures generosity by the size of the impact.**

Jesus can see what we cannot. He can see what this widow’s act of faith will acc_____.

The greatest joy of generosity is seeing God’s saving w_____ accomplished.

Thanks for choosing to invest in Jesus and the ministry of his Church! Know that every gift is changing hearts and lives.

My Personal Next Steps

- In response to God’s overwhelming generosity, consider pursuing a generous act or gift that will exercise your faith in a way that you’ve never exercised your faith before.
- Pray for your church’s leadership as we seek God’s vision for his Church and his guidance in determining the wisest ways to invest the generous gifts of God’s people to accomplish his saving work.
- Find Financial Peace with friends. On the Connection Card, indicate interest in the *Financial Peace* study that will be offered in January.
- Prepare to share Financial Peace with the next generation. On the Connection Card, indicate interest in *The Legacy Journey* study that will be offered in January.