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WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW
A LOVE THAT CAN HANDLE THE TRUTH
December 2 and 3, 2017

We need God to rend the heavens like he's done so many times before, to come down to shake us up and wake us up before it's too late! We need some tough love.

PRESERVICE (*Sunday*)

**Let All Mortal Flesh
For the Glory of the Lord**
String Ensemble

BELLS AND WELCOME

GIFT OPENING: For you with tough love from God

HYMN 28

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

**Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend. (v. 1)**

- M** The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
C **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- M** Long ago Isaiah cried out, "Lord, open the heavens and come down." Lord, today we ask you to come down to us with your love. In your wisdom send the kind of love that reveals your truth, a love that will not coddle us but will shape us into your dear people who will walk in your righteousness.
C **We light the first candle of Advent, the candle of love. Let it remind us of God's perfect love surrounding us at all times and in all situations. Father, today we ask you to open our hearts to receive your greatest act of love, the sending of our Savior, your one and only Son.**

One Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings:

**Welcome, O my Savior, now!
Joyful, Lord, to you I bow.
Come into my heart, I pray;
Oh, prepare yourself a way. (v. 4)**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Lord, you have called us to love as we have been loved. Yet, Lord, we confess that all too often we fail to answer that call. Our independent hearts have strayed far from you and your truth. We forget who we really are—yours. We have disobeyed you and deserve only your anger and punishment. But we are sorry for our selfish ways and loveless acts. We confess our sins to you and ask you for your mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

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

C **Crush from me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith,
Freely ransomed by your grace.

And, when you shall come again.
As a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see your face,
Safely kept through life and death. (vv. 5, 6)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
Dear Lord of love, prepare us for your return. As we study your Word today send your Holy Spirit to wake us up. Tune our ears to hear and stir our hearts to receive your strong, yet gentle, truths of law and gospel.

C **Give us eyes of faith to see your powerful love active in our lives as you mold us into your dear children.**

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



FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 3:18-22, Bible page 1222

Just as God provided an escape from judgment in the preaching of Noah and in the water that floated the ark, so he provides an escape from judgment in the water of Holy Baptism.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*Saturday and Sunday 7:45 am*)

Psalm 24, Hymnal page 73
Open the gates and let the King of glory in!

ANTHEM (*Sunday 9:15 am*)

We Look For the Stars
Lutheran Elementary School Grades K and 1

GOSPEL

Mark 13:32-37, Bible page 1018
Jesus will come again. Keep watch!

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY 22

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

SERMON

Isaiah 63:7-64:12, page 745
Pastor Peter Panitzke

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*)

Shout for Joy: Isaiah 49, Joel Nelson
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, String Ensemble

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Dear loving Lord and Savior, what the world needs now is your tough love. We thank you for your precious Word of law and gospel that nourishes our souls and protects us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. We want to be ready for your return.

C **Waken our hearts to your truths. Help us to appreciate all of your blessings, never taking them for granted.**

M We give special thanks for all those who faithfully teach and preach your saving truths everywhere. Help us support and encourage them and those who are training to be our future pastors, teachers, and missionaries. May they be humbled by the privilege of sharing your Word in the public ministry.

C **We lift them up to you in prayer. Make them bold to speak like Isaiah. Bless them with extra measures of wisdom, patience, and love.**

M O Lord, we are surrounded by people who do not know you and your loving ways. Many walk down dangerous paths that lead to destruction. Many chase after the temporary pleasures of this world at the expense of their soul's salvation.

C **It is time for a wake-up call. Like Isaiah, help each and every one of us to cry out with the truths of your love. May our words and deeds reflect your mercy and be a blessing to those around us. May our witness help many know Jesus, their Savior, and be saved.**

M Be with the elderly, the sick, the sad, the handicapped and challenged of this world. Do not let them be discouraged or distressed. Help them to see their valuable role in this wake up call. Their prayers and quiet trust in you are beautiful shouts of love to this sin-sick world.

C **We lift them up to you in prayer. Make them bold in their witness for you. Bless them with extra measures of healing, patience, and love.**

M During this Advent season it is so easy to be distracted by the "world's version of Christmas." Keep our focus on Jesus, your Son. Help us to take time to meditate on your Word at home and at church. Send your Spirit to truly prepare our hearts for your coming.

C **May all that we do and say give glory to you, our Advent King.**

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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.



WELS CONNECTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER *(Sunday) Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Carol Nelson*



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 4, 2017

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible In a Year</i> (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Woodwind Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
TUE	9:15 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	Volleyball League (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (Faith Room)
WED	12:00 pm	Ladies Afternoon Fellowship Christmas Party (Grace Room)
	1:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible In a Year</i> (Faith Room)
	3:30 pm	Advent Worship Service
	4:30 pm	Soup Supper hosted by the Cancer Support Group
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Classes
	7:00 pm	Advent Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:00 am	Quilting Fellowship (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:45 pm	Stoney Creek Bible Study: <i>Costa Maya</i> Ministry Presentation
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
	7:00 pm	Pickleball League (Trinity Gym)
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran Elementary School Chapel (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	9:00 am	Christmas For Kids (Trinity Café and Gym)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Parents Club (School Classroom 8)
	9:15 am	Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion
	6:30 pm	TUG – Teens Under God (Trinity Café and Gym)

Note: There will be no Youth Ministry or Adult Bible Study on the Sundays of December 24 and 31.

MISSION PARTNER NEWS

THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR EXTENDED FAMILY IN PUERTO RICO!

When Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, St. Paul's member Diane Ludwig's family and their neighborhood in Barranquitas were hard hit. We consider her family our family. We designated our "plate offering" on Thanksgiving Eve and Day to provide funds to help people in their neighborhood recover from the hurricane. We rejoice that we have received \$ 7,179.79 to provide assistance. Our St. Paul's Quilting Fellowship has also donated four quilts for this effort! Jay and Joan Oswald have completed our initial plan to mail supplies to Barranquitas. Our next step is to send Diane to Puerto Rico with Walmart gift cards. She will then assess the needs and purchase necessary supplies with the gift cards. Thank you for your kindness to our family in Puerto Rico.

OUR MEXICAN MISSION PARTNER – PRESENTATION ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 6:45 PM

Our newest mission partner, Pastor Martin Valleskey, of Costa Maya Ministries, will give a presentation on the gospel ministry on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico - just four hours south of Cancun. The Stoney Creek community, S69W14142 Tess Corners Drive, invites you to join them for this presentation. The evening starts at 6:45 pm with a hymn sing and then a one-hour presentation by Pastor Valleskey. We are excited that our former St. Paul's teacher Dan Thiel will be joining Pastor Valleskey in this ministry in the next few weeks! It is our prayer that mission teams from St. Paul's will soon be able to travel to help this new mission partner. Special offerings of \$500 have been given to this ministry to date. For more information check out www.costamayaministries.org.

MALAWI MISSION PARTNER COMMUNIQUE

The latest issue of the newsletter from our mission partner in Malawi, Africa is available at the Welcome Center. It speaks of the thoughts and emotions of one of the Malawi missionaries and his family who recently returned to the states. Missionary Rob Wendland will now teach future pastors in training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon. Thank you to the \$11,115 in generous donations given to this mission work this fiscal year which began in July.

GIFT TREE FOR MUSKEGO RESIDENTS IN NEED

There are a few additional gift tags available on the tree this weekend. Gift Tree tag numbers 1-100 are due back no later than December 6. Gift Tree tag numbers 100 – 165 are due back December 17. Thank you for the wonderful generosity you have shown in giving to our community through this program.

SCHOOL OF EARLY LEARNING INFANT AVAILABILITY

St. Paul's School of Early Learning (SOEL) childcare center will have an opening in the infant room beginning in September of 2018. Spread the word! Contact SOEL Director Kim Neubauer for more information at kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 200.

AWAKE AND ALIVE

Awake and Alive is holding its first ever two-day conference for college-age and young professionals (18-25 year olds) on January 5 and 6 at Wisconsin Lutheran College. The hope is to provide overnight arrangements for 30 attendees from out of town. Contact Lynda at Lynda@awakealive.com. She will assist in structuring your hosting availability in a way that's comfortable for you.

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 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 SERVICES – CAROLS FOR THE NEWBORN KING

3:30 and 7:00 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. Each service will begin with a Christmas carol hymn-sing 15 minutes prior.



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

SOUP SUPPER – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Join us for a soup supper between Advent services Wednesday, December 6, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the Grace Room. Soup and service are provided by St. Paul's Cancer Support Group. A free will offering will be gathered at the soup supper.

HOST THE DECEMBER 13 OR 20 SOUP SUPPER

The Wednesday, December 13 and 20 soup suppers are still available for hosting. To volunteer please contact Tammy Miller at (414) 422-0320, ext. 111, or tmiller@stpaulmuskego.org.

LADIES AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ladies, you are invited to the Ladies Afternoon Fellowship Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 6, at noon in the Grace Room. Please bring a wrapped white-elephant gift to exchange.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017

SOEL Christmas Program: Thursday, December 14, 5:30 pm

Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Services: Thursday, December 22, 5:00 and 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 23 (4th Sunday in Advent): Traditional Worship Service at 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 24 (4th Sunday in Advent): Traditional Worship Service at 8:00 am
Contemporary Worship Service at 10:00 am

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

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

New Year's Eve and Day Worship Services: Regular weekend worship schedule with Holy Communion.

** There will be no Wednesday worship service on December 27.

There will be no Bridge service Christmas weekend.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS: Saturday, December 9, 9:00 am



Children age 3 through 12 are invited to enjoy a Christmas message, singing, crafts, and games from 9:00 am until noon in the Trinity Café and Gym. The children are asked to bring a non-perishable food item as their ticket for the event. Parents may stay and assist if desired. Register online at stpaulmuskego.org/Christmas-for-kids-registration,

by completing the back of the Connection Card, signing up at the Welcome Center, or emailing Dr. Joel Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.

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.

PROVIDE A CHRISTMAS MEAL

Our Food Pantry Team will be distributing food to needy families within our congregation and community the week before Christmas. 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.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISM

Hadley Mae Wallner, daughter of Brett and Eden (nee Geier) Wallner, born November 2, 2017 will be baptized in a private ceremony on Sunday, December 3. We rejoice with the Wallners in the gift of saving faith given to Hadley.

FUNERAL

Henry Brace, born July 19, 1928, received his crown of glory on November 29, 2017. Funeral arrangements are pending. May Hank's family and loved ones look to the gift of the Savior during this time, the source of all comfort and hope.

FLOWERS

The poinsettia beautifying the sanctuary today is given in celebration of David and Lynne Lemke's 36th wedding anniversary on November 28. May God bless them with many more years together in Christ.

HOSPITALIZED

Milton Baas is rehabbing at Hales Corners Care Center and Richard Smith is at St. Luke's. Carole Dellevar, Daniel Dockter, and Roger Rasmussen have been discharged from the hospital.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

1008 attended worship services last weekend. 687 were in attendance at Thanksgiving worship services.

THE DORCAS SOCIETY THANKS YOU

It is with great joy that the ladies of the Dorcas Society extend their gratitude to all who supported the Dorcas Society Bake Sale last Sunday, either by donating or purchasing baked goods. \$1,800 was raised and evenly distributed among St. Paul's Tuition Assistance Fund, Missionary John Holtz and the Malawi Mission, and the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. Thank you to all.

EVANGELISM FOR EVERYONE: MARTIN LUTHER ON VOCATION

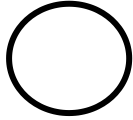
God grants us our place in life to glorify him and to help people in need, especially in the need to know Jesus as their Savior. Join Pastor Mike Hintz, director of the WELS Commission on Evangelism, for this 4-week study — Sundays through December 17 in the Grace Room at 9:15 am.

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.

THE POINT OF GRACE DECEMBER GATHERING

The Point of Grace - a Milwaukee area college campus ministry - meets Friday, December 8, at 5:00 pm for their December gathering and Christmas Party. The location is the MSOE chapter - Grace Center, 1209 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Go to <http://tpog.net/> for more information.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Share highs and lows and begin your time together in prayer.

2. This series is all about “What the World Needs Now.” What do you think the world needs more of?

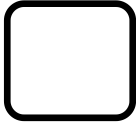
3. Read Isaiah 63:7-10
 - What does it mean to you that God is distressed when we’re distressed?
 - How did the Lord fight against the Israelites to call them to repentance?
 - Do you see God at times become your “enemy” to call you to repentance?

4. Read Isaiah 63:11-14. In these verses, the prophet reverently reminisces about the times God gave his nation “rest” in the promised land. Do you have a time of Godly “rest” from your past that encourages you when you wrestle with present turmoil?

5. Read Isaiah 63:15-19.
 - Have you or someone you love ever felt that the Lord’s tenderness and compassion was withheld from you/them?
 - When those times come, how do you know that God is still your *loving* Father and Redeemer?

6. Read Isaiah 64:1-4. The prophet prays for God to step into history. As you think about the church in America, what might lead you to ask the Lord to step into history?

7. How does God’s perfect love – shown in the difficult and restful times – affirm or challenge you in your own personal human encounters with love?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

What the World Needs Now Is Love... Sweet Love

A Love that can Handle the Truth Isaiah 63:7 – 64:12, page 745

Historical Background

- In 701 BC, Isaiah foretells the destruction of the temple (Isaiah 39).
- Isaiah 40 – 66 gives comfort to the people who will experience that destruction.
- In 586 BC, the temple is destroyed by the Babylonians.
- In Isaiah 53, the Savior is portrayed as the Servant who will suffer for us.
- Our text is a prayer of the believer as they deal with the Enemy's apparent victory over God's Church.

A Love that can handle the truth...

1. The LORD's love for us that _____ to handle the truth about us.
2. The LORD's love for us that _____ to handle the truth around us.

A prayer based on the Love that can handle the truth...

1. Isaiah 63:7-10 – The LORD's love _____ to handle the truth.
2. Isaiah 63:11-14 – The LORD's love _____ to handle the truth.
3. Isaiah 63:15-19 – The LORD's love _____ to handle the truth.
4. Isaiah 64:1-4 – The LORD's love _____ to handle the truth.
5. Isaiah 64:5-7 – The LORD's love _____ to handle the truth.
6. Isaiah 64:8-12 – The LORDs love _____ to handle the truth.

My Next Steps

Become familiar with the Prophet Isaiah to appreciate the Gift of Love that he foretold.
Read a chapter a day.

- Read Isaiah 36-39 – four chapters – The historical background for the last half of Isaiah. Note how God hears and answers King Hezekiah's prayers.
- Read Isaiah 65-66 – two chapters – This is the Lord's answer to the prayer we studied.
- Read Isaiah 40:1-11 in preparation for next weekend, the Lord's promise of comfort.