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WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

HUMILITY

A LOOK IN THE MIRROR

December 9 and 10, 2017

It's human nature to view our situation from our own vantage point. Yet our vantage point is skewed. Of course, we're going to want to think that we're right, that our motives are pure, that we've got the other person in mind. We need a mirror that will show us what we really need to see—the truth. We need someone who loves us enough to be honest with us.

BELLS AND WELCOME

GIFT OPENING: For you with gracious love from God

HYMN 1

The Advent of Our King

The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set his servants free. (*vv. 1, 2*)

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 Many years ago Isaiah declared to God's people, "Comfort, comfort all my people: Speak of peace, so says our God." Isaiah foretold the coming of John the Baptist, the promised voice in the wilderness called to expose sinful hearts and point God's people to Jesus, the Savior who would bring true peace to the world.

C We light the second candle, the candle of peace. The perfect life and death of our Advent King brought saving peace between us and God. With sin removed, we are able to peacefully rest in the loving arms of our Good Shepherd, as he carries us close to his heart.

The Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings.

**O Zion's Daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let a faithless heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And his true members all unite
With him in heav'n to reign. (vv. 3, 4)**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Father of grace, when we look into your mirror of the Law we see nothing good within us. Our sinful pride lies to us and tells us we are right in our sinful ways and not as bad as others. But this is not true. We have put ourselves first and failed to keep your commands. We are ashamed and we ask for your forgiveness.

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, 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. Rest securely in God's peace.

C **Amen**

M The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise

**Before the dawning Day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.**

**All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity. (vv. 5, 6)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
Lord God, throughout the ages your servants, such as Isaiah and John the Baptist, have proclaimed the truth of your Word to prepare God's people for your return.

C **Today we gather once again to hear your loving law and saving gospel.**

- M Through your Word and Sacrament send your Holy Spirit to bless us with ears that hear,
eyes that see, hearts that believe, and feet that walk in your peace-filled ways.
- C **Help us to grow as your humble, thankful servants.**
- M We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.



FIRST LESSON

2 Peter 3:8-14, Bible page 1227

The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. Hold fast to Christ and you will be prepared.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 85, Hymnal page 97

Show us once again your unfailing love, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8, Bible page 1000

John the Baptist prepares the way for the Lord.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:





1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It



King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and
 own e - ter - nal King! Palm branch - es strew be -
 greet your prom - ised King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry
 comes from heav'n a - bove. His rule is peace and



val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall
 All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions,
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness



sa - cred sto - ry:
 doubt as - sail you!
 now a - dore him! Ho - san - na to the
 so a - bound - ing:



Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

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*)

What Child Is This?, *Brass Ensemble*
by Todd Marchand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M O Lord, the God of peace, what the world needs now is your gracious love. May the mirror of your Word reflect your saving light to all those around us. Help us to walk in true humility. Make us instruments of your grace, sharing your love with all. Open the hearts of many that they may receive the comfort and peace that comes only through Jesus, our Savior.

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M We pray in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer and Peacemaker. 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.

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 to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



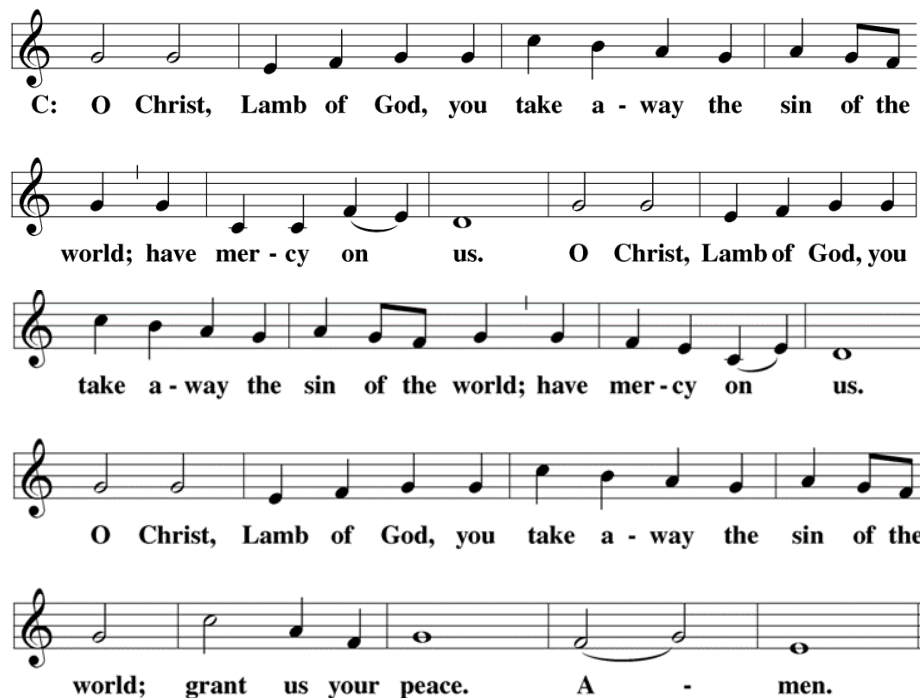
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 8.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 11 14

Comfort, Comfort All My People Arise, O Christian People

M Merciful Father, we give you thanks and praise that you have fed us with the precious body and blood of your dear Son for the forgiveness of our sin. By your grace fill us with the desire and the power to walk worthy of our holy calling and to reflect your glory in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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

POSTLUDE **An English Carol Medley**, *Brass Ensemble*
arr. by Todd Marchand

ORGANIST *Nicole Greanya*

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of December 11, 2017

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible In a Year Bible Study</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)
	11:30 am	OWLS Christmas Party (Muskego Regency)
	6:00 pm	Dorcas Society Christmas Party (Grace Room)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	Volleyball League (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise Bible Study</i> (Faith Room)
WED	1:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible In a Year Bible Study</i> (Faith Room)
	3:30 pm	Advent Worship Service
	4:30 pm	Soup Supper to benefit St. Paul's School technology (Grace Room)
	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)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
	7:00 pm	Pickleball League (Trinity Gym)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service
	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

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



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.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

FLOWERS

The flowers beautifying the sanctuary today are given in celebration of Richard and LoEtta Cuccio's 60th wedding anniversary on December 7. May God bless them in their marriage together in Christ.

HOSPITALIZED

Milton Baas is rehabbing at Hales Corners Care Center and Dorothy Hahn at Dycorn Transitional Living. Delbert Holtz is at Waukesha Memorial. Sue Gullekson and Richard Smith 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, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

971 attended worship services last weekend. 341 were in attendance at midweek Advent services.

THE PLACE TO BEGIN: FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE STUDY

Begins Tuesday, January 9, at 7:00 pm

Pastor Panitzke and Pastor Strobel will be teaching this fifteen-week study that follows the promises God made to you throughout the Bible. This course is both a Bible introduction study and prepares an individual for membership in the congregation. One attendee stated, "If you have questions about your faith, whether new or old, you will find this class so beneficial. I had many "aha" moments on things I had forgotten since catechism class way back when." Register by indicating your interest on the back of the Connection Card.

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.

GIFT TREE FOR MUSKEGO RESIDENTS IN NEED

Many thanks for the many gifts we have seen pouring in for our community through this program. Gift Tree tag numbers 100 – 165 are due back December 17.

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.

MISSION PARTNER NEWS

COULD YOU GIVE A YEAR OF YOUR LIFE TO MISSIONS?

When I was a child, our Sunday School was deciding whether to support a home or foreign mission for the next year. I thought we were deciding where we would all go to do mission work. I was only five years old. I didn't think I was ready to leave home. My vote was "Home Mission."

My dreams have changed since then. How exciting it would be to devote a year of my life to a mission, whether it be a home mission or a foreign mission! Most of us can't get away for a year. But perhaps we could give a year of our lives in another way.

Many of us have enjoyed an incredible investment year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is up 22.36% in 2017. If I would love to give a year of my life to missions, would I also love to give a year of my life's investment to do the Lord's work?

This is a question that I am still struggling with in prayer. Has God's hand of blessing been upon our retirement accounts only to hasten the day of our retirement, or to give us a dream of doing more for God's kingdom? I am writing this to invite you to join with me in this kind of prayer struggle.

Could I give a year of my life for missions? A challenging question for a five-year-old and for any of us.

If you would like to talk about some of the spiritual investment opportunities God is giving St. Paul's here or among our mission partners, contact me (Pastor Panitzke) at (414) 350-1436 or ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org.

COSTA MAYA MISSION PARTNER

We are excited that our former teacher Dan Thiel will have the privilege of serving on a long-term mission trip to Costa Maya Ministries on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. (See their new three-minute introductory video at www.costamayaministries.org.) This mission has received a \$100,000 challenge grant. Every dollar will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. The goal is to see this gift fully matched, resulting in \$200,000 given to the mission so that they can purchase and remodel their ministry center. Ask Pastor Pete for more information.

HURRICANE MARIA RELIEF IN PUERTO RICO

We have sent over a half ton of goods to Barranquitas, Puerto Rico, to help the Barrancas neighborhood recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. Over \$8,200 and four quilts from the St. Paul's Quilting Group have already been donated. Now the focus of our relief efforts shifts from boxes to other delivery methods.

St. Paul's member Diane Ludwig, whose extended family lives in Barrancas, will travel to Puerto Rico on December 13. We will arm her with gift cards purchased with a portion of your donations. While there she will shop for and distribute goods she and her brother Miguel determine will best meet the needs of their neighbors. Before returning on December 18, she plans to identify other physical and spiritual needs which we could help with in the days to come.

When Diane returns, the Puerto Rico focus group at St. Paul's will meet to determine next steps. Joan and Jay Oswald are scheduled to leave for Puerto Rico on January 4 on a previously scheduled vacation. We are hopeful that their visit will fit in well with those next steps.

If you would like to contribute to this ongoing relief effort, mark your gift clearly "Puerto Rico" or go to www.stpaulmuskego.org/give or text PR and a dollar amount to 414-316-6733.

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 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 13 Savior of the Nations, Come

Hymn 2

December 20 What Child Is This

Hymn 67

HOT DOG SUPPER – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Join us for a hot dog supper between Advent services Wednesday, December 6, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the Grace Room. The meal is provided by St. Paul's Church and School office staff. A free will offering will be gathered at the supper to benefit technology at our school.

HOST THE DECEMBER 20 SOUP SUPPER

The Wednesday, December 20 soup supper is still available for hosting. To volunteer please contact Tammy Miller at (414) 422-0320, ext. 111, or tmiller@stpaulmuskego.org. If there are no volunteers by Tuesday, December 12, we will cancel this soup supper.

STEWARDSHIP AT ST. PAUL'S

FIND FINANCIAL PEACE

One of the biggest causes of relationship strife is financial stress. Do you want help finding “financial peace”? We invite you to attend the next *Financial Peace University* classes offered here at St. Paul's, beginning in January. Join in this nine-week DVD-based course as we walk together through the seven baby steps toward financial peace. Indicate interest on the Connection Card.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Perhaps God has granted you financial peace. Perhaps the words, “From the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (Luke 12:48), challenge you to wonder, “What more could I do? How can I leave a legacy with what God has given me?” Join us in another course developed by Dave Ramsey to help us prepare to leave a legacy and learn about St. Paul's Legacy and Gift Trust Funds that have been designed to leave a legacy. Indicate interest on the Connection Card.

ANNIVERSARY FUND

If you are looking for a year-end-gift opportunity, consider the “Anniversary Fund.” We will celebrate our school's 50th anniversary and the 60th anniversary of the Centennial Gym in 2018. We are just beginning the information gathering stage, but we know that improvements like the paving of the school playground, renovations to the Centennial Gym, replacement of heating systems with the addition of possible air conditioning will cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars. For more information, ask Pastor Pete.

WISH LIST

This list of items would greatly benefit the ministry at St. Paul's. These items are above and beyond budgeted expenses. Below is an update on the generous giving that has occurred over the last few weeks. Thank you for every gift you give to our General Fund, Mortgage Fund, and these Wish List items. If you would like to give toward a Wish List item, clearly mark your envelope, “Wish List,” with the item title, or give online at www.stpaulmuskego.org.

Item	Est. Cost	Received	Still Needed
Centennial Gym Windows	\$30,000	\$2,435	\$27,565
Landscaping for Church Entrance	\$6,700	\$3,167	\$3,533
Narthex Carpet	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Martin Luther College Tuition Assistance Grant	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE

Martin Luther College is our church body's college to prepare the next generation of pastors, Christian school teachers, and staff ministers. The college will match up to \$1000 in tuition assistance provided by the congregation for every freshman, sophomore, or junior from our congregation. We are hoping to receive enough in Wish List gifts not only to provide \$1000 in tuition assistance to those who will receive matching funds, but to all of our members attending any of our worker training schools and for the 3 students from Garden Homes Lutheran Church who are attending Martin Luther College. Mark your gift “MLC Tuition Assistance”.

TUITION ASSISTANCE AT ST. PAUL'S

We don't want cost to prohibit any family from receiving a Christian education for their child(ren). Tuition Assistance Funds (PreK, Elementary School, High School) enable us to generously help families who cannot afford tuition. Contributions may be made via the blue offering envelope provided in your envelope packet or online. Scan the QR code to go directly to the giving location on our website—www.stpaulmuskego.org.



CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017

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

Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Services:

Friday, 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.

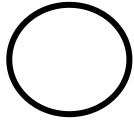
REMEMBERING ST. PAUL'S HOMEBOUND

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.



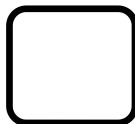


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Share your highs and lows and begin your time together in prayer.
2. As we learn more about what the world needs now, this week's topic is humility. Can you think of a person or event from your life that taught you the importance of humility?
3. Read Isaiah 40:6-8
 - God tells Isaiah to remind the people they are like grass. In your own words, what similarities was God saying that grass and humans share?
 - Could the same be said to the people of our world today?
4. Read Isaiah 40:1-2. Even though God wanted to remind the people to open their eyes to the humbleness of their existence, he didn't want them to despair. Where do you see God offering comfort to our world today?
5. How and when do you make time in your daily life to pause and hear God's truth and comfort?
6. Read Isaiah 40:10-11. What words or phrases here encourage and empower us that we – even as grass – are still enough because of who our LORD is?
7. Where in your life do you need prayers for humility and trust in God's strength?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

What the Word Needs Now Is Humility—We Are Like Grass

Isaiah 40:1-11 (Bible page 718)

Introduction: The need for an honest self-evaluation

1. This is the withering wind of the law.
 - A. It's devastating to be confronted with the b_____ of life.
 - B. We never a_____ everything we want to a_____.
 - C. Our l_____ is like the grass and the flowers of the field.
 - D. This happens because "the b_____ of the LORD blows on us."
 - E. The same God who gives l_____ also puts to d_____.
 - F. Our sinful nature wants to i_____ and c_____ up the fact of death.
 - G. We're f_____ and we're d_____; this is the hot and withering wind of the law.
2. This leads us to the gentle whisper of the gospel.
 - A. God doesn't want us to look i_____ and d_____, but u_____ and o_____.
 - B. God's Word reveals how fervently faithful he is to his p_____.
 - C. God's Word always points us to j_____.

Conclusion: In Jesus Christ God has given us a permanent shelter.

My Next Steps

- **Read** Isaiah 61:1-3 and 10-11 to prepare for next weekend's *What the World Needs Now* message on *Deliverance*.
- **Memorize** Isaiah 40: 8: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever."
- **Commit** to making an eternal difference in someone's life this Christmas season by praying for them, inviting them to a worship service or Bible class, or gifting them in a special way.