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WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

DELIVERANCE

December 16 and 17, 2017

Only someone who is trapped in a hopeless situation looks for deliverance. When it comes, there is a joy that cannot be contained.

PRESERVICE

**Away in a Manger
Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel**
Woodwinds

BELLS AND WELCOME

GIFT OPENING: For you with compassionate love from God

HYMN 4

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

**Lift up your heads, you mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he will bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise. (v. 1)**

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

C **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

M Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, Isaiah gave God's strong messages of warning to his people: "Your sins will bring captivity for you in this world and future punishments of death and hell." But God did not forsake his brokenhearted people. He gave the joyful news:

C **"I will raise up Cyrus [king of Persia] in my righteousness: I will make his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free" (Isaiah 45:13).**

M The rescue from exile was a picture of a greater deliverance. Isaiah foretold of another Servant of the LORD who would bring about our deliverance from sin:

C “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth” (*Isaiah 49:6*).

M “My soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness” (*Isaiah 61:10*). We light the third Advent candle, the candle of joy.

C **May our hearts rejoice—Jesus, the Messiah, has delivered us from our enemies. We are set free from the chains of sin, death, and hell! We are clothed in garments of salvation! Rejoice!**

The third Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings.

**How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
to whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is he
Who comes to set his people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise. (v. 3)**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Beloved in the Lord, let us prepare our Advent hearts for the day of Christ’s return. We draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him to grant us forgiveness in the name of Jesus, the Messiah, our Savior King.

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. Bound in the chains of sin, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for all I have done wrong. Lord, forgive me and show me your mercy. I trust my Savior, Jesus Christ, has paid the full price for all of my sins.**

RESPONSE

Lord Have Mercy

The image shows two lines of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first line contains the melody for the first two phrases: "Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy". The second line contains the melody for the final phrase: "on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens under syllables that span across two notes.

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

C **Amen.**

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

**Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!
Oh, enter with your saving grace;
Show me your kind and friendly face.
Your Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to your name. (v. 5)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Father, we have heard your promise of deliverance from our sin.

C **Send us your Holy Spirit that we might take this promise into believing hearts and be filled with eternal, unending joy.**

M We pray in the name of our Advent King, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,

C **now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, Bible page 1189

Paul encourages us to live joyfully, thankfully, prayerfully, and spiritually as we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 71, Hymnal page 92

Lord, deliver me in your righteousness; turn your ear to me and rescue me.

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28, Bible page 1062

Like John, our role as Christians is to prepare the way for the Lord and to point to him, not to ourselves.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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*)

Christmas Angels Medley, *Woodwinds*
Prepare the Royal Highway, *Handbells*
acc. by Rose Bonack ~ oboe

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Father you sent your Son to break the chains of sin and death. Let this news be our joy and strength. May our words and actions declare your power and love for those around us and for those of future generations.

C Freed from the punishment of sin, may our simplest tasks be acts of compassionate love, as we give glory to you throughout our days.

M Use us to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. May we be your loving example to those around us. Spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism as we prepare for Christmas.

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

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M O Jesus, our great Deliverer, we owe all things to you. Thanks to your sacrifices, we now stand acceptable before God. We eagerly await your coming again.

C **Come, Lord Jesus, come! 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 7

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

CLOSING PRAYER

M Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

M May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May Jesus Christ, the one whose sacrificial blood clothes you in garments of salvation, bless you with his compassionate love. May the Holy Spirit strengthen your faith and renew your zeal to walk in God's ways this Advent season and always. Go with joy!

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

POSTLUDE *Shepherd – Manger Medley, Woodwinds*

PRESIDING MINISTER *(Sunday) Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Darik Mischke*



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 18, 2017

MON	10:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) <i>Through the Bible In a Year</i> Bible Study (Grace Room) Woodwind Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
TUE	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Ministerial Team Meeting Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library) Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony) Volleyball League (Trinity Gym) <i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (Faith Room)
WED	1:00 pm 3:30 pm 4:30 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible In a Year</i> Bible Study (Faith Room) Advent Worship Service Public School Confirmation Classes Advent Worship Service Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice Pickleball League (Trinity Gym)
FRI	11:00 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Lutheran Elementary School Dismissal (Christmas Break) Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Service (Main Church) Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Service (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN		Christmas Eve 8:00 am Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 am Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion 1:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Worship Service 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Worship Service 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Worship Service 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Worship Service

Christmas Day Festival Worship Services with Holy Communion

8:00 and 10:00 am

There will be no Wednesday worship service on December 27.

December 30, 31, and January 3

Regular worship schedule with Holy Communion.



MISSION PARTNER NEWS

COSTA MAYA MISSION UPDATE

St. Paul's former teacher and member, Dan Thiel, has arrived and begun his service on a long-term mission trip at 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. 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 UPDATE

St. Paul's member, Diane Ludwig, whose extended family lives in Barrancas, Puerto Rico, is currently in this hurricane stricken region distributing gift cards and much needed goods to our 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.

Over \$8,200 and four quilts from the St. Paul's Quilting Group have already been donated. 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.



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.



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Our youth ministries and our Sunday morning adult Bible studies will not meet on the Sundays of December 24 and 31.

The church administration office will be closed December 25 and January 1. Office hours for December 26 – 29 and January 2 will be 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Please contact a member of our Ministerial Team directly if a need arises outside of these office hours.

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Hahn is at Dycorn Transitional Living. Delbert Holtz at Waukesha Memorial. Milton Baas, James Beyer, and Dr. Joel Nelson have returned home.

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.

FLOWERS

The flowers beautifying our worship service today were given in loving memory of Bonnie Banach from her husband, Ray.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

1079 attended worship services last weekend. 326 were in attendance at midweek Advent services.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR RECEIVES CALL

The Holy Spirit has called our School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons to teach biology and coach at Luther Prep High School in Watertown, Wisconsin. He requests your prayers and counsel as he considers the gifts and abilities God has given him and the needs and opportunities of both his call to serve here and at Luther Prep.

PASTOR NATHAN STROBEL'S INSTALLATION

Pastor Strobel, our fourth pastor who will serve in the position of Resident Missionary, will be installed the first weekend in January. He will be introduced at all services and officially installed at the 10:45 am service on Sunday, January 7. His focus will be to connect with the many guests coming to our campus and lead them closer to Christ through Bible study.

THE PLACE TO BEGIN: FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE INTRODUCTION STUDY

Pastor Panitzke and Pastor Strobel will be teaching this fifteen-week study on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm, beginning January 9. This course is both a Bible introduction study and prepares an individual for membership in the congregation. Register on the back of the Connection Card.

AWAKE AND ALIVE

A winter gathering is planned for January 5 and 6 on the campus of Wisconsin Lutheran College. Visit awakealive.com for more information. Contact Lynda at Lynda@awakealive.com if you are interested in housing an out of town attendee or two.

DIVORCECARE MINISTRY TO BEGIN JANUARY 9

St. Paul's will begin a *DivorceCare* ministry and support group Tuesday, January 9, from 6:00 until 7:30 pm in the church library. This group is for anyone who is divorced or contemplating divorce. It is a 13-week video seminar with time for discussion and support. More information can be found at www.divorcecare.org or by contacting the church office at (414) 422-0320.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

FIND THE SERVICE THAT FITS YOUR SCHEDULE

(Use www.stpaulmuskego.org as another reference to these service times.)

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 (Nursery care available for ages 3 and under.)

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

**The 1:00 pm service will be signed for the hearing impaired.*

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 on December 24.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS PARTICIPATION BEATS OLD RECORD!

Forty-seven volunteers (21 adults / 26 teens) served 119 students age 3-12 at St. Paul's 2017 Christmas for Kids event on December 9. The 119 child-count beat the previous record of 114.

At this 3-hour event children rotated through five stations of activities: the Christmas story told from the point of view of a live shepherd, cookie decorating, a Christmas craft, song practice for the two songs sung at The Bridge the next day, and games.

St. Paul's thanks all the volunteers, as well as all the families who saw Christmas for Kids as a great way for children to begin the Christmas season with Jesus. We also thank the 80+ children who opened The Bridge service with two awesome Christmas songs last Sunday. You can watch the children at <http://stpaulmuskego.org/worship/the-bridge-live-stream/>.



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

AMAZING GENEROSITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY THIS CHRISTMAS!

Your overflowing love for our community and those in need has been joyfully evident this Christmas season!

- 86 gifts given to children in need in Muskego through the Gift Tree campaign.
- 65 gifts given to seniors in need in Muskego through the Gift Tree campaign.
- 52 gifts given to Friends of Jesus by St. Paul's school families. Friends of Jesus supports families in our area who are suffering through hardships, as well as families in need in the inner city of Milwaukee.
- 72 gifts given to Ronald McDonald House of Milwaukee by St. Paul's K-2 classes. The Ronald McDonald House provides families a loving place to stay during extended treatments at Children's Hospital.
- 52 pajamas given to at-risk kids across the nation by our 3rd grade class. Scholastic Books matched that donation with 52 books given to the same children through their annual Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive.
- Over 50 items projected to be given to The Robyn's Nest by our 4th grade class. The Robyn's Nest provides new and gently used clothing, hygiene products, infant items, toys, books, and other household goods free to the families within the foster care system, as well as those identified to have unmet needs through Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.
- Educational materials and items of need given to Lighthouse Youth Center by our 7th grade class.
- A class donation to Make A Wish by St. Paul's 8th grade students.

FIND 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. Learn more at www.daveramsey.com/fpu. Indicate interest on the Connection Card.

LEAVING A LEGACY – THE LEGACY JOURNEY

The Legacy Journey is a seven-week, biblically based class that teaches how to truly live and leave a legacy for generations to come. This class will lead you deeper into investing, basic estate planning, purposeful living, safeguarding your legacy, and discovering the keys to generational wealth and true generosity. Indicate interest on the Connection Card.

LOOKING FOR A YEAR-END GIFT OPPORTUNITY?

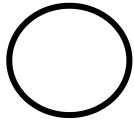
A generous God has created St. Paul's to be a generous people. We saw that especially in the Door of Hope offering this fall that enabled us to move forward with the calling of our fourth pastor. That pressing need probably overshadowed some other on-going needs.

- **Mortgage Fund:** We have fallen about a month behind in gifts to our Mortgage Fund. We have dipped into reserves to make payments. We would like to replenish those reserves and continue to make additional principal payments.
- **Lutheran Elementary School Tuition Assistance (LESTA):** Gifts to this fund in the first five months of the fiscal year have been about half of what we would normally hope to receive. This fund allows us to make our school financially possible for anyone who is interested in enrolling their child.

You can give to these funds online at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give from your checking, savings, or credit card account or clearly mark your gift when you place into the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS MEALS FOR THOSE IN NEED

Our Food Pantry Team will be distributing food to families in need within our congregation and community on December 20. Please contact Pastor Kuehl at dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 121 if you, or a family member or friend would appreciate a food basket this year.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

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

2. What the world needs now is a little joyful hope that comes from knowing that help is on the way. More than a little help—deliverance! Can you recall a time you were delivered from something you were dreading? Talk about that experience.

3. “The Year of the Lord’s Favor” is a reference to the Year of Jubilee. Read about the Year of Jubilee in Leviticus 25:1-28. Discuss what this might look like if we participated in this tradition today.

4. Read Isaiah 61:1-3.
 - The Hebrew word translated “poor” comes from the same word as “afflicted.” Why do you think the Gospel seems to be better received among people who are poor and afflicted?
 - Do you see yourself as “poor” and “afflicted”? If so, in what way?

5. In Christ you are “a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.” (Isaiah 61:3) How is the LORD’s splendor displayed in you?

6. Read Luke 4:16-20. How do these verses help us redefine the year of the Lord’s favor?

7. Prepare for Christmas by reading together Isaiah 9:2-7. What does Isaiah tell you about this child who is born to you?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

What the World Needs Now: Deliverance

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11, page 744

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.

1. The Anointed Servant promises deliverance (Isaiah 61:1-3)

- a. The _____ sends the _____ to anoint the _____ (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 3:22; Luke 4:21)
- b. So defeated you want to _____
- c. The Year of the LORD's favor: So defeated you welcome _____ (Leviticus 25:10)

2. The anointed believer celebrates deliverance (Isaiah 61:10,11)

- a. Celebrating in your deliverance _____ (Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 5:25-27)
- b. Celebrating in God's _____ (1 Peter 1:7)

“Alleluia! For Lord, our God, the Almighty One reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice and let us give praise to him, for the wedding of the Lamb has come and his wife has made herself ready, and she was given clean, bright fine linen to wear, for the fine linen is the ‘not guilty’ verdicts pronounced on the saints” (Revelation 19:6-8, Dr. Siegbert Becker in *Revelation: The Distant Triumph Song*, page 280).

Prepare for Christmas

Enjoy these pictures of your Savior provided by Isaiah.

- Read Isaiah 7 – Jesus is Immanuel, God with us.
- Read Isaiah 9 – Jesus is the Child born to us.
- Read Isaiah 11 – Jesus is the shoot from Jesse's family.
- Read Isaiah 35 – Jesus strengthens feeble hands.
- Read Isaiah 49 – Jesus brings light to the nations.
- Read Isaiah 53 – Jesus is our substitute.