

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of December 18, 2017

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| MON | 10:00 am | Walking Club (Trinity Gym) |
| | 7:00 pm | <i>Through the Bible In a Year</i> Bible Study (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 | Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library) |
| | 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 | 1:00 pm | <i>Through the Bible In a Year</i> Bible Study (Faith Room) |
| | 3:30 pm | Advent Worship Service |
| | 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) |
| FRI | 11:00 am | Lutheran Elementary School Dismissal (Christmas Break) |
| | 5:00 pm | Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Service (Main Church) |
| | 7:00 pm | Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Service (Main Church) |
| SAT | 8:00 am | Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) |
| | 5:00 pm | 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.