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WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

A HOPE-FILLED SONG

December 23 and 24, 2017

The world needs deliverance. We have the promise. We see God at work bringing this promise to fulfillment. It's time to sing out our hope-filled song to the world, to let others see our confidence in the great things the Lord has done and is about to do.

BELLS AND WELCOME

GIFT OPENING: For you with perfect love from God

HYMN 8

Come, O Precious Ransom, Come

**Come, O precious Ransom, come,
Only Hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to you all portals.
Come, your beauty let us view;
Anxiously we wait for you. (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 God has and always will love his people perfectly, sending them what they need at just the right time. Today we hear Isaiah's message declare words of encouragement and hope to a people on the verge of despair. Isaiah confidently sings, "I will praise you, O LORD, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation...my strength...my song. I will trust in him and not be afraid" (*Isaiah 12*). What a song of hope!

C **We light the fourth Advent candle, the candle of hope. May the hope we have in Christ Jesus, our Savior, burn brightly in our hearts. Christ's death and resurrection secures our salvation. No matter how difficult things may be, Jesus' love and salvation is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Heaven is our home. We, too, can sing a song of hope!**

The fourth Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings.

**My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray you.
Evermore, as best I can.
Savior, I will homage pay you,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, your merit through your grace. (v. 3)**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins. O Lord, you have faithfully stood by us and watched our wandering ways. We rely on ourselves and others for direction. We search in all the wrong places until we are ready to give up...as if we were a people without hope. Yet, you stand before us with your arms wide open and your heart full of immeasurable love and forgiveness. We humbly come before you today in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to ask for your forgiveness and mercy.

C **O faithful Lord of perfect love, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

M Hear the words of sure hope our God has for each and every one of us. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. As a called servant of God I forgive you 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 won for us by our Advent King, let us praise the Lord.

**Hail, hosanna, David's Son!
Help, Lord; hear our supplication!
Let your kingdom, scepter, crown
Bring us blessing and salvation
That forever we may sing
Hail, hosanna! to our King. (v. 4)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
Once again we gather around your Word. Send your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith and cheer our spirit. As we hear Isaiah and Mary respond to your words of salvation with hope-filled songs, touch our hearts with the same humble gratitude and joyful praise. May we learn to sing a new song of hope that will ring out to a world that so desperately needs to hear your words of love and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON**Romans 16:25-27**, Bible page 1141

We praise God, who revealed Jesus Christ as the Savior that all might believe. His gospel message is "the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed."

M Paul has reminded us that the only wise God, who reveals to us the mystery of his grace by faith in Christ Jesus, deserves glory and praise forever! Let our hearts respond with joyful praise as we join the angels' song:

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo. (*Hymn 63, v. 1*)

GOSPEL**Luke 1:26-38**, Bible page 1025

The angel Gabriel announces the birth of the Savior to the virgin Mary. The angel tells Mary that God would give her Son the throne of this father David, and Mary humbly accedes to the Lord's will.

M Mary's heart was filled with hope and joy. She would give birth to her personal Savior, the Savior of all people. The news of Jesus, Mary's son, fills our hearts with the same hope and joy. Let us sing Mary's song to praise our Savior, too.

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!** (*Hymn 24, v. 3*)

HYMN OF THE DAY**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel****SERMON****Isaiah 12:1-6**; Bible page 691*Pastor Jeffrey Bonack*

M Once again Jesus comes to us through God's Word. The message of our redemption fills our hearts with hope-filled joy. Let us praise the Lord!

**Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heaven.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.** (*Hymn 26, v. 3*)

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Let us pray.

What the world needs now is God's perfect love. A love that knows exactly what to send to his people at the perfect hour appointed. Help us to remember that you are in control of all things. Your holy will is done according to your divine purposes.

O Lord, when the time was right you sent Jesus, our Emmanuel, to rescue us from sin, death, and hell. You opened the doors to heaven and gave us the sure hope of eternal life. Our hearts are full of your love and peace...of your joy and hope. With full hearts help us to reach out to those in need of hearing your words of hope. Give strength to the weak, healing to the sick, patience to the afflicted, and rest to the weary.

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M Direct our eyes to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again as the Lord of lords. 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 glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

HYMN 47, v. 1, 2, 5

Behold a Branch Is Growing

CLOSING PRAYER

M Grant, O Lord, that the lips which here have sung your praise

C **may boldly sing out to the world with words that give you all glory.**

M May the ears which have heard you speak

C **continue to hear the music of your saving Word and tune out the world's voices which would lead us astray.**

M May the tongues which have confessed your name

C **always speak your truth without fear.**

M May all of us who have worshiped together today

C **be united in true love for each other as you have loved us in Jesus. Amen.**

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace with great hope in your hearts. Live in harmony with one. 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.

C **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER (*Sunday*) *Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Carol Nelson*



UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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: 8:00 and 10:00 am with Holy Communion

December 30, 31, and January 3: Regular worship schedule with Holy Communion.



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 25, 2017

MON	8:00 am	Christmas Day Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
TUE	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
THURS	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI	12:00 pm	Muskego Woman's Club Blood Drive (Grace Room)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	6:30 pm	Heinrich / Koziowski Wedding Rehearsal (Main Church)
SUN		New Year's Eve
	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:45 am	The Bridge Holy Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion
2:00 pm	Darin Heinrich and Kaela Koziowski Wedding Ceremony (Main Church)	

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Our Sunday youth, teen, and adult ministries 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.



Multimedia Ministry

TV: *Time of Grace*, Sundays at 5:30 am on UPtv, 7:00 am on WBME, and 10:30 am on WDJT. Thursdays at 3:30 pm on TBN. For a complete broadcast schedule, visit timeofgrace.org/waystowatch or call the *Time of Grace* office at (800) 661-3311.

Radio: Lutheran Radio Church Service, Sundays at 7:00 am on JOY1340 AM

Online: Podcast and video sermons at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org

Live Streaming: The Bridge, Sundays at 10:15 am at www.thebridgemuskego.org

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISM

Brinley Rae Lecus, daughter of Nicholas and Samantha (nee Schacht) Lecus, born September 23, 2017, was baptized in a private ceremony on Wednesday, December 20, 2017. We rejoice with the Lecus family in the gift of saving faith given to Brinley.

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Hahn is rehabbing at Dycorn Transitional Living.

FUNERAL

Delbert Holtz, born March 15, 1934, entered eternal life with his Savior on December 19, 2017. Funeral arrangements are pending. May the hope and comfort of the Christ Child, our Savior, fill the hearts of Delbert's family and loved ones today and always.

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, Bonnie Beth Plotkin, Cheri Sorensen, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

928 attended worship services last weekend.

PASTOR NATHAN STROBEL'S INSTALLATION

Pastor Strobel, our fourth pastor who will serve in the position of Resident Missionary, will be introduced at all services and officially installed at the 10:45 am service on Sunday, January 7 with a cake reception following in the Grace Room. His focus will be to connect with the many guests coming to our campus and lead them closer to Christ through Bible study. Come and welcome our new pastor!

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

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.

Dear Brothers and Sisters at St. Paul's,

On December 13, the Holy Spirit worked through the governing board at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI, to extend a divine call to me to teach biology and coach. I request your prayers and counsel as I now consider the gifts and abilities God has given me and the needs and opportunities of both my call to serve here and at Luther Prep. I appreciate all of your prayers to God for wisdom as I decide where my gifts are best suited to serve Him. God's blessings on your Christmas!

Mr. Fitzsimmons

MALAWI MISSION PARTNER NEWSLETTER

The latest newsletter from Missionary John Holtz in Malawi, Africa is available at the Welcome Center. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of this mission work.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

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.

STRONG FAMILIES – BLESSED LIVES: THE NEXT PARENTS CLUB COURSE

Dr. Joel Nelson will lead the next Parent's Club study exploring the characteristics that make a family strong and healthy. The study meets Sundays 9:15-10:15 am, January 7-March 25 in school classroom 9.

AWAKE AND ALIVE – FOR THE 18-25 YEAR OLD GENERATION

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.

PART-TIME CUSTODIAN POSITION OPENINGS

We have two openings on our school custodial team. We offer the flexibility of working anywhere from a two-hour shift to a five-hour shift, working 2 days per week to 5 days per week, with some shifts starting at 2:00 pm and others in the evening hours. For more information contact Church Administrator Randy Fink at rfink@stpaulmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 120.

JANUARY MESSAGE SERIES

CHANGE YOUR WORLD: Live the Revolution

When Jesus was born, the Roman Empire enjoyed financial and military success. At the same time, scandals of a sexual nature had become common place in the ruling elite. Positions of power were bought and sold. The world was ripe for revolution.

Over the next three centuries, a revolution did take place... the Christian revolution. The Christian faith became the dominate force in the Roman world by 325 AD.

How did the Christian Church change the world? It wasn't by armed revolt. It wasn't a result of political intrigue. The world was changed by individual Christians living a revolutionary life... a life of purpose and love that amazed the world around them and led many people to know Christ.

As we begin the new year, it is our prayer that we can change the world too! We won't study politics or military tactics. We'll study the revolutionary message... that changed the world of Jesus' day... that has changed us... and that can change our world today.

Live the Revolution

Look for Hope	January 7	Matthew 2:1-12
Find New Identity	January 14	Galatians 3:26,27
Build a Community	January 21	Hebrews 10:19-24
Live with Purpose	January 28	2 Timothy 1:8-10
Act in Love	February 4	1 John 3:11-20

ST. PAUL'S SUPPORT GROUPS

DIVORCECARE MINISTRY TO BEGIN JANUARY 9

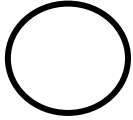
St. Paul's will begin a *DivorceCare* ministry and support group Tuesday, January 9, from 6:00 until 7:30 pm in the church library. This group is for anyone who is divorced or contemplating divorce. It is a 13-week video seminar with time for discussion and support. More information can be found at www.divorcecare.org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

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Have you recently been diagnosed with cancer? Are you currently battling cancer? Are you supporting a friend or family member who has fought or currently battling cancer? Sometimes people are overwhelmed in these situations and say, "I can't do this." God tells us, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13) The St. Paul's Cancer Support Group would also like to offer support. We have members of all ages who have been affected by cancer in some manner. The group has compiled a variety of information which can be found in the Cancer Support Group corner of the church library. If you are a cancer survivor, are currently battling cancer, or have friends or family members fighting the fight and would like to join our group, or would like to speak to someone for support, please contact Karen Schram at (414) 529-5544 or Judy Schmidt at gjschmidt@wi.rr.com

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The St. Paul's Alzheimer's Support Group for care partners meets to provide comfort and resources for care partners, easing the burden of this dreaded disease. As people who are dealing with similar challenges share their experiences, care partners realize they are not alone, nor are they the first to face such challenges. A unique feature of this group is applying the comfort of prayer and God's Word to individual situations. This support group is sanctioned by the Alzheimer's Association. The St Paul's Alzheimer's Support Group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, in the church library from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The next meeting of the group will be January 16. For more information contact David Timm at (262) 787-5955 or Andy Timm at (414) 254-3548.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Share your Christmas plans with the group and begin your time together with prayers that Christ guide our Christmas.

2. Have you been plagued by a “grinch” (a worry, a stress, a heartache, a demand, etc.) trying to squelch your soul’s Christmas song this week? Share your grinch with your group.

3. This week’s “*What the World Needs Now*” is focused on the hope that Christ brings. Read Isaiah 12:1-6 together. Which verse do you think speaks of that need the most?

4. Isaiah 12:1 speaks of “that day” which was not to happen for another 600 years. Has there been a time in your life where the present time was so dark that all you could hold on to was a “that day” somewhere far ahead?

5. Isaiah 12:3 encourages us that “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” What are some wells of salvation God has placed in our world today to encourage us?

6. Pastor Bonack encouraged us to take a cue from the Who’s of Whoville and sing more songs of God’s bling.
 - What does that look like in your life this week?
 - What could you do to make this song spill over onto the pre-Christians in your life, maybe causing them to sing a little, too?

7. Wrap up your meeting this week by reading Luke 2:1-20 together and – if your group is musically inclined – sing a well-loved Christmas song together, too.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

What the World Needs Now—A Hope-Filled Song

Isaiah 12:1-6, Bible page 691

Is the Grinch stealing your Christmas song?

It's Time to Thrive (Not Just Survive)

“That Day”

The Grinch loves it when the b_____ of this world becomes our focus.

Isaiah shifts the focus to “that day”—the day of God’s r_____.

For us “that day” has come. It’s time to r_____.

The Wells of Salvation

God has provided multiple sources (wells) of r_____ for the journey.

God’s salvation is a deep well that never runs d_____.

It's Time to Sing (A Song of God's Bling)

The Lesson of the Whos

What if we were to sing a little more of God’s b_____?

What if the life-song of every Christian gave witness to the j_____ we have in Jesus?

A Song from the Heart

Come, Immanuel, fill our lives to overflowing with the song of your salvation!

Next Steps

- In the crazy running around of this next week, plan some time for you personally or for you and your family to pause, reflect and refocus on what Christmas truly means for our lives.
- Reread the Christmas story (**Luke 2:1-20**) every day this week thinking about the ways the events of that first Christmas evening profoundly changed the life of all the characters involved. Make a list of the ways Christmas has changed your life as well.
- Choose one fear, worry, disappointment, or frustration that has been squelching your Christmas song. Pray every day this week for Jesus to take it from you and see what happens.