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NEW YEAR NEVER ALONE

December 30 and 31, 2017, and January 3, 2018

While another year is passing, and we look forward to the coming year, we recognize that in both our joys and our sorrows, God has been and is with us. It is his gracious presence in our lives that gives our lives meaning and worth. It is his presence that gives us hope for the future.

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 71, v. 1-4

The Old Year Now Has Passed Away

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

M With the closing of another year, we look back in thankfulness and carry forward its joys and blessings into the new year.

C **Thank you, Lord, for the goodness you have shown to us in the past year. You have blessed us in ways too numerous to count. You have sustained us in times of trouble in ways we cannot ever fully appreciate.**

M With the closing of another year, we also look back on it and unburden ourselves before God of all that separates us from him and hinders our mission.

C **Merciful Father, this past year has been another year of sin for us. We have grieved your heart with our rebellion in thought, word, and deed. Even though we bear the name Christian, we have failed to lead lives worthy of that calling. We have not done the good things you require of us in your commandments. We ask your forgiveness in the name of Jesus, your only Son, who died for our sins. We ask your Holy Spirit, in the year now beginning, to help us faithfully reflect the image of Christ.**

M God has heard your confession. His love, mercy, and grace are everlasting. Therefore, hear with believing hearts the words of St. Paul recorded in the letter to the Romans: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all---how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies." Therefore, as a called servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

- M** As we begin a new year, forgiven by God, we are reminded that we are his redeemed saints. We forge ahead in this new year, not in bondage, but in freedom; no longer in futility, but persevering in hope that does not disappoint us. God bless us and keep us in the coming year.
- C** Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 72, VV. 1-3

O Lord, Our Father, Thanks and Praise

O Lord, our Father, thanks and praise
In this new year we render,
For ev'ry evil had to flee
Before you, our defender
Our life was nourished, we were fed
With rich supplies of daily bread,
And peace reigned in our borders

Lord Jesus Christ, our thanks praise
In this new year we render;
Your reign has kept your people free,
Has shown your mercies tender.
You have redeemed us with your blood;
You are our joy, our only good,
In life and death our Savior.

O Holy Spirit, thanks and praise
In this new year we render,
For you have led our eyes to see
Your truth in all its splendor
And thus enkindled from above
Within our hearts true faith and love
And other Christian virtues.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

- M** Let us pray.
God of all time and eternity, the Alpha and Omega, we commit to you the year now completed and commend to your kindness and love the year now at hand. Throughout the coming days, weeks, and months encourage us by your Spirit to make wise use of your Word and Sacraments that we may be thoroughly strengthened in our faith, and grounded in the love, grace, and mercy of Christ, our Lord, in whose wondrous name we commence this new year.
- C** Amen.

THE WORD

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 8:31-39, Bible page 1133

Nothing will separate us from God's love for us.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 90, Hymnal page 99

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

GOSPEL

Luke 12:22-34, Bible page 1044

Don't be afraid, little flock!

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY 70, vv. 1-2, 4

Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter

SERMON

Zephaniah 3:14-17, Bible page 1027

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack

After the sermon the congregation sings:



OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.
C **Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**
- M It is fitting, O Lord, at the beginning of a new year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.
C **You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**
- M You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.
C **You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**
- M Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.
C **We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**
- M We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.
C **Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

- M Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.
- C **We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. 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.



- M Lift up your hearts.



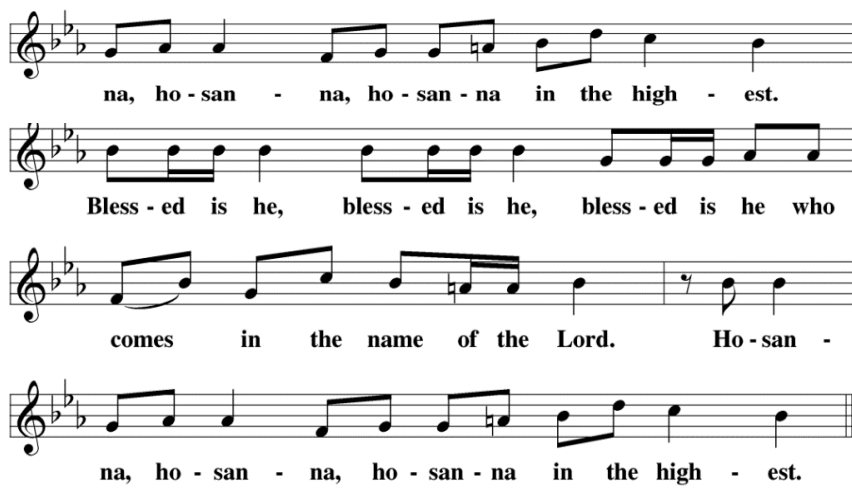
- M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



- M It is right and fitting that we should give thanks to you, gracious Lord. You are the source of our life and the ruler of time. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 8.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Lord, we thank you that once again you have been with us as we have gathered in your house and at your table. We thank you that, in your mercy, you have strengthened us with your heavenly feast and with the very body and blood of your only Son for the forgiveness of our sin. Bless our lives with your abiding presence and bring us at last to your eternal kingdom. We ask this for Jesus' sake.

C Amen.

BLESSING

M The Lord bless 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

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

ORGANIST *Nicole Greanya*



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.

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 held on Tuesday evenings in the Faith Room. A new class begins January 9. You may indicate your interest by marking the back of the 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.

Your Ministerial Staff

Office (414) 422-0320

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbbonack@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0501
Mr. Randy Fink	Ext. 120	rfink@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons	Ext. 118	sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Pastor David Kuehl	Ext. 121	dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org	(262) 679-1393
Mrs. Emily Krill	Ext. 123	ekrill@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Dr. Joel Nelson	Ext. 145	jnelson@stpaulmusekgo.org	(414) 422-0320
Pastor Peter Panitzke	Ext. 122	ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 350-1436
Pastor Nate Strobel	Ext. 293	nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Mrs. Sally Wallner	Ext. 294	swallner@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of January 1, 2018

MON

New Year's Day

TUE

9:30 am Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
10:00 am Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)

WED

8:05 am Pre-K and Lutheran Elementary School Resumes
1:00 pm *Through the Bible In a Year* Bible Study (Faith Room)
3:30 pm Advent Worship Service
4:30 pm Public School Confirmation Classes
7:00 pm Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
8:00 pm Brass Ensemble Rehearsal

THURS

6:30 am Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
9:30 am Quilting Fellowship (Faith Room)
10:00 am Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
6:45 pm Stoney Creek Bible Study: *Luther and The Lord's Supper* (Stoney Creek)
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)
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 Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries
9:45 am The Bridge Holy Communion
10:15 am The Bridge
10:45 am Contemporary Worship Service with Pastor Strobel's Installation
11:45 am Pastor Strobel's Installation Reception (Grace Room)



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

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Our Sunday youth, teen, and adult ministries will not meet on December 31.

The church administration office will be closed January 1. Office hours for 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.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, 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

4221 attended the 13 Christmas worship services December 20-25.

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 SETH FITZSIMMONS CONTINUES TO DELIBERATE DIVINE 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.

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.

NO LADIES AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP THIS MONTH

The Ladies Afternoon Fellowship will not meet this month. Please join in fellowship at the next meeting on February 7.

START THE NEW YEAR IN GOD'S WORD

There are a number of Bible studies beginning or resuming in the new year. If you would like more information about any of them, simply state it on your Connection Card or call the church office at (414) 422-0320.

- **Following the Promise: A Study of Major Bible Themes** - *Following the Promise* traces the promise of the Savior from the creation of the world, through Christmas and Easter, to the end of the world. This course will help you understand and treasure the truth that each of us is infinitely precious to God. This also serves as St. Paul's pre-membership study. Pastor Pete Panitzke and Pastor Nathan Strobel will be leading this study beginning Tuesday, January 9, at 7:00 pm.
- **Through the Bible In a Year** – New participants are welcome to this study that is offered Mondays at 7:00 pm or Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Read a section of scripture each week and discuss it as a group with Pastor Pete Panitzke leading.
- **The Cults: America's Home-Grown Religions**
Join former pastor and St. Paul's member, Wayne Borgwardt, as he takes a look at cults in America and how they do and don't relate to Jesus Christ and Scripture. Sundays at 9:15 am in the Grace Room through February 11.
- **Strong Families - Blessed Lives** – Join Dr. Joel Nelson on Sunday, January 7 at 9:15 am (same time as Kids Club) for the start of the next Parent's Club study in School Classroom #9. Explore the characteristics that make a family healthy and strong. This study will run through the end of March.
- **Financial Peace University** – Beginning Thursday, January 18, at 6:30 pm, we will use Dave Ramsey's course to learn the principals that can lead us to financial peace.

ST. PAUL'S SUPPORT GROUPS

MOMMY & ME TO BEGIN JANUARY 24

St. Paul's will begin a new social, spiritual, and service-oriented ministry for moms of young children—infant through age five. *Mommy & Me* will meet Wednesday mornings, beginning January 24, from 9:30-11:00 in the Faith Room. This ministry will begin with a social, get-to-know-each-other focus, and move towards blending social, education (secular and spiritual), and service into the mix. Usually moms and children will be together but there may be special times when moms and children will be separate. Former St. Paul's School Teacher Samantha Lindner, who became a full time stay-at-home mom to Aria last year, will serve as the group's facilitator. For more information, contact Samantha at (989) 284-2854 or Dr. Nelson at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.

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.

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 NEWS

TWO PART-TIME CUSTODIAN POSITION OPENINGS

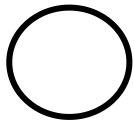
Urgent Need: We have two immediate openings on our school custodial team. Two of our part-time workers have been blessed with full-time employment in their field of expertise. Their last day was Friday, December 29.

The two part-time flex positions cover 30 hours of weekly work. Our staffing model has the flexibility of working anywhere from a 2-hour shift to a 5-hour shift and the flexibility of working 2 days per week to 5 days per week. In addition, the work schedule is flexible with some shifts starting at 2:00 PM and with some shifts possibly working into the evening hours to accommodate those with busy day time schedules.

If interested in learning more or if you know someone, please contact Staff Minister Fink at rfink@stpaulmuskego.org (414.422.0320 x120).

PRE-K CLASSROOM AIDE OPENING AT ST. JOHN'S IN MUKWONAGO

Due to a large growth in enrollment, St. John's Lutheran Pre-K in Mukwonago is in need of an additional classroom aide for the remainder of this school year. Experience working with children and/or in a child-care / school setting is preferred. Hours needed are 3 morning hours per day, 5 days per week. Please contact Catherine at cstjohn@stjohnslutheran-muk.org for more information.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Share your New Year's Resolutions with the group and begin your time together in prayer.

2. As we begin the year 2018, what do you find yourself more focused on: the highs and lows from the past 365 days, or the hopes and fears for the next 365?

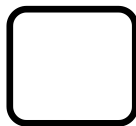
3. This week's message is from the prophet Zephaniah. Zephaniah forces us to wrestle with this seeming contradiction: If God is with me, if God is on my side, if God loves me and promises to be with me, then why the struggle? Why the heartache? Why the pain? Is God **really** on my side? Can you recall a time in your life when you, or someone you love, wondered these things?

4. Read Hebrews 12:7-10. How are these passages evidence that God is on our side?

5. Read Romans 8:31-39.
 - a. Who is the one who condemns?
 - b. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
 - c. Are you wholeheartedly convinced, as the author of Romans is, of all the words in verses 38-39? How does this confidence show up in your day-to-day life?

6. Read Zephaniah 3:14-17. What words or phrases from these verses give you the most joy and comfort?

7. God doesn't always remove us from our struggles in this world. He does promise, however, to change the way we look at them. How can your group pray for you in your current perspective shift?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Your New Year's Refrain:

The Lord My God Is With Me

Zephaniah 3:14-17 (page 945)

What does the new year hold for you?

Zephaniah 1

We believe that love is always supposed to make us feel h_____.
A truly loving Father d_____ his children because their **true** happiness is his **ultimate** goal.

Zephaniah 2

We believe that e_____ people deserve God's wrath—not us.
Rather than chafe under God's discipline, let rejoice that we're n_____ getting what we deserve.

Zephaniah 3 (first half)

We r_____ to acknowledge what God's love is actually doing in our lives.
God will bring h_____ on earth—if that's what it takes to save us in the end.

Zephaniah 3 (second half)

Even when it looks wrong, God is making everything r_____.
God is your Mighty W_____.
The Lord has removed your f_____.
The Lord d_____ in you, r_____ over you, q_____ you with his love.

Next Steps

- The Lord quiets you with his love as he speaks to you in his Word, of his forgiveness and of his many promises to keep your faith safe until he brings you home to heaven. Make a New Year's resolution to spend time in God's Word every day in 2018.
- Mark **Hebrews 12** in your Bible and, whenever you're feeling that God is not on your side, reread this chapter thanking God that he is the truly loving father he is.
- Think of someone in your life who struggles to believe that God is on his/her side. Make a commitment to pray for that person regularly.