



THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS

GOD KNOWS WHEN TO SHOW UP

December 2, 2018

WELS Connection

Hmong Outreach in Vietnam

Welcome

Call to Worship

O Come All Ye Faithful

Baptism

*Knox Christopher Korducki
Son of Gregory Korducki and Amy Karfonta, born May 14, 2018*

Confession and Forgiveness

Living Hope

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

Prayer

Beautiful Things

First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4, Bible page 959
God promises to send his messenger who will prepare the way for the Lord.

Second Lesson

Philippians 1:3-11, Bible page 1178
Paul's prayer is that our love will abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight that we may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Offering

Message Song

All My Hope

Message

Luke 3:1-6, Bible page 1028
Pastor Nate Strobel

Prayer / Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Sending Song

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of December 3, 2018

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
TUE	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:30 am	Ministerial Growth Team Meeting
	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	6:00 pm	Divorce Care (School Classroom 8)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> (Faith Room)
WED	9:00 am	Mommy & Me (Faith Room)
	9:45 am	Reading Buddies (Trinity Café)
	12:00 pm	Ladies Afternoon Fellowship Christmas Party (Grace Room)
	3:30 pm	Advent Worship Service
	4:30 pm	Public School 6-8 Grade Confirmation Instruction Classes
	4:30 pm	Soup Supper (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Advent Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:00 am	Quilting Fellowship (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	Pickleball League (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran School Chapel Service (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	9:00 am	Christmas for Kids (Trinity Café and Gym)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	8:30 am	<i>Following the Promise</i> (School Classroom #8)
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	Generation Change – Financial Peace – Teens/Parents (Faith Room)
	6:30 pm	TUG – Teens Under God

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES:

The Bridge Christmas Eve Worship Service: Noon

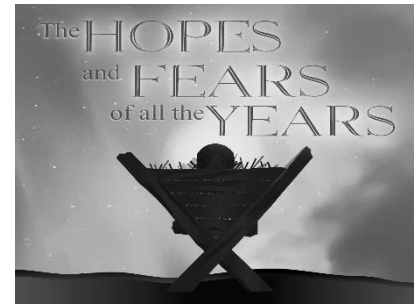
Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Services: 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 10:00 pm

Traditional Christmas Day Worship Services with Holy Communion: 8:00 am and 10:00 am

THE ADVENT MESSAGE

THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS

As Christmas draws near once again, what are the hopes and longings of your heart? Some hope to have the whole family together for the holiday—a warm cozy home with everyone around the dining room table. Some look forward to the fresh start of a new year, a better year, a happier year, or at least one without so much struggle. Some hope for a little less bad news, a little more peace in this world. For too many, these hopes will be dashed. Instead, their fears of family squabbles, personal disappointment, and continued unrest in the world will be the reality.



That shouldn't surprise us because these things are not what Christmas is about. Christmas is about the faithful love of our God. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Peace comes to those on whom God's favor rests. His favor rests on us because of Christmas, because his Son took on flesh and blood, because Jesus died so that we could live.

As we prepare for Christmas this year, God help us focus on the fact that all our hopes and fears are answered in the Christ child.

December 8 and 9

He knows when to speak up

Luke 1:26-38

December 15 and 16

He knows how to hold us up

Luke 1:46-55

December 22 and 23

He knows what we need most

Matthew 1:18-25

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. A soup supper will be served between services only on December 5.



December 5

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 65

December 12

Behold, a Branch is Growing

Hymn 47

December 19

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Hymn 54

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISM

Knox Christopher Korducki, son of Gregory Korducki and Amy Karfonta, was born May 14, 2018, and will be baptized at the 10:45 am worship service on Sunday, December 2. We give thanks for the blessings of baptism given to Knox. May God continue to bless and strengthen his faith throughout his life.

FUNERALS

Joseph Wysocki was born on August 30, 1939 and passed away on November 22, 2018. David Henkel was born on May 1, 1988 and passed away on November 25, 2018. May the God of all comfort and hope be with the loved ones of Joseph and David.

HOSPITALIZED

Audrey Wefel is at Linden Grove Waukesha. Carol Smith has been discharged from the hospital.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: David Burkowitz, Mary Schauwitzer, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

ATTENDANCE

1004 were in attendance for weekend services. 555 attended Thanksgiving services.

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

We have a staffed nursery during the 9:15 and 10:45 am services in the east wing of the church. A silent pager system allows childcare providers to alert you of any need your child has. Ask an usher for directions.

MRS. JEANNE STEINBRECHER'S RETIREMENT

Third grade teacher, Mrs. Jeanne Steinbrecher, announced last week that she will retire at the end of this month. We thank Jeanne for her 37 faithful years in the teaching ministry, 35 of those years at St. Paul's. We pray for God's healing hand over her cancer and strength for her and her family.

Cards of appreciation may be sent to the church at S66W14325 Janesville Road, Muskego, WI 53150, or dropped off at the office during school hours.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL TEACHER DIVINE CALLS

On December 11, the School Ministry Action Team will meet to review two synod-provided call lists. The following day the Ministry Board will extend calls for a full-time 1st grade teacher and a half-time Extended Learning Coordinator (ELC). Both calls are currently being served as one-year calls given the sudden retirement of Miss Martens back in August. If you have names to suggest for either call, please contact Principal Fitzsimmons at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118, or sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org by December 2.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

OUR LIVING NATIVITY IS TODAY!

Come and experience the arrival of our Savior November 31 - December 2. A continuous 15-minute outdoor presentation of the birth of Christ happens from 6:00 to 9:00 pm on Saturday and 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Sunday. Enjoy the warm ambiance and treats in the Trinity Café before or after the show.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS - DECEMBER 8

St. Paul's 2018 *Christmas for Kids* is Saturday, December 8, from 9:00 to 11:45 am in the Trinity Café and Gym and school for ages 3-12. Register online at www.stpaulmuskego.org, complete the back of the Connection Card, or contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org. Parents are welcome to stay and enjoy the morning. If you would like to help out, just mark the back of the Connection Card. Please bring a non-perishable food item as your "ticket" for the morning.



HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

A group of volunteers, together with Pastor Bonack, will be setting up the Christmas décor in the church on Saturday, December 8, starting at 9:30 am. Bring your favorite snack and enjoy camaraderie as we beautify the church for this Christmas season. The work is usually complete before noon.

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.

A CHRISTMAS MEAL FOR THOSE IN NEED

Our Food Pantry Team will be distributing food to families in need within our congregation and community on December 20, 5:30 – 8:00 pm, in the Trinity Café. 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.

GIFT TREE UPDATE FOR OUR MUSKEGO NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Thank you once again for your wonderful generosity towards our Muskego neighbors in need. All of the available gift tags have been taken. Just a friendly reminder to have your wrapped gifts at church by the date noted on your tag.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

HAVE YOU SEEN THE ADIRONDACK CHAIR?

An adirondack chair built and painted by students at Muskego High School is on display in the Trinity Café. Bids will be accepted until December 8. Proceeds will support the youth of Muskego through education activities, #MentoringMyWorkforce initiative, and student volunteer scholarships.

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

Grace Lutheran Church in Waukesha is offering suicide prevention training facilitated by the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs on Saturday, December 8, at 10:00 am. This event is open to anyone who is interested in knowing what to do when a family member or friend needs help (not just Veteran families). There is no cost for this training but you must register to attend. To register, visit www.bit.ly/GraceWaukeshaQPR or contact Pastor Jason Hacker directly at (262) 547-3688 or pastorhacker@gracewaukesha.org.

THE DORCAS SOCIETY THANKS YOU

It is with great joy that the ladies of the Dorcas Society at St. Paul's extend their gratitude to all who supported their bake sale by donating or purchasing baked goods. \$1,800 will be evenly distributed among St. Paul's Tuition Assistance Fund, Missionary John Holtz and the Malawi mission, and the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. Thank you to all.

FROM CHRIST TO CONSTANTINE (313 AD)

Join Rev. Dr. Ken Fisher, President of Wisconsin Lutheran High School, for a Bible class about the testimony and trial of the early church. Learn how Christ's church did not spread and prosper under favorable conditions but had to survive under persecution in a society where it was seen as a danger and a threat. Meet two of the greatest heroes and martyrs of the early church—Polycarp and Perpetua. The study will be interspersed with video clips that will trace how the church eventually triumphed and became the official faith of the Roman Empire--with mixed results--after Emperor Constantine legalized it. Four classes begin on December 2 and end on December 23, 2018. Grace Room 9:15-10:15 am.

YEAR END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Many of us enjoy giving a special “thank you gift” to Jesus at this time of year. Here are some of our current opportunities to bless our community and our world.

- **Mission and Ministry Fund** – This is our general fund that covers the day-to-day expenses of our ministry as well as supporting our synod’s mission efforts and our Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Your generous gifts will encourage us to be courageous in our ministry plans for the next year so that “by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ.”
- **Mortgage Fund** – Our mortgage on our \$3.3 million 2010 expansion has been reduced to \$1.73 million. Special gifts to the “Mortgage Fund” enable us to make our \$19,000 monthly mortgage payment without taking Mission and Ministry Fund money to pay for the building. Every time we can make an additional \$11,000 in principal, we shorten the length of our mortgage, currently scheduled to be paid off in 2027.
- **Tuition Assistance** – Our goal is that finances never be the issue that keeps a parent from considering our Christian Elementary School. In addition to the generous support our congregation gives to our school system through our Mission and Ministry Fund (55 cents out of every offering dollar in 2017-2018), the Tuition Assistance Fund provides additional generous support to families who need it.
- **A Cool Million** – Our goal is that by the middle of February, 2019, Chicken Dinner Sunday, we will have received \$500,000 in gifts so that we can proceed with our plans to remodel the Centennial Gym this summer. In addition, we will complete the installation of a new heating/air system throughout the school. We have already received \$391,000 in Cool Million Gifts. Let’s look forward to celebrating at the chicken dinner!

Giving Reminders...

- The safest and most cost effective way for St. Paul’s to receive your weekly or monthly gift is through a recurring online donation. Nearly 30% of our gifts are received in this way. Set up your online giving at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give.
- If you are 70 ½ or older, giving a gift from your IRA could reduce your tax payment.
- Giving a gift of appreciated stock can also provide tax advantages.
- Our Gift Trust Fund and Legacy Funds have been established to receive estate gifts.

For help with any of the above, contact our Church Administrator Randy Fink at rfink@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 120.

RAWKS Funds

We continue to receive stories of how our RAWKS Fund Seed Packets (Random Acts of Worship Kindness) have been used to make a difference. New member Karen Metzger organized lunch packing for the homeless. She wrote,

“I reached out to the community when I didn't have enough help, and dozens of fellow citizens of Muskego answered the call to donate items and come help pack. It was amazing to see! The room was literally filled with people I do not know but had the heart to come help. What a way to multiply our RAWKS fund! We're feeding the homeless and bringing people into the church building!”

Do you have a story to share? Let Pastor Panitzke know!

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

"YOU WILL NOT BE AFRAID" – AWAKE AND ALIVE 2-DAY CONFERENCE

Awake and Alive, a ministry to serve young adults 18 to 25 years old, is holding a two-day conference Friday and Saturday, January 4-5 at the Best Western Conference Center near the Milwaukee Airport. A great group of faculty and devotion leaders have been invited to serve college students and young professionals with the hope of Christ! There is also a leadership and community track for leaders of young adults. Cost is \$60 until December 15; \$75 thereafter. Further details can be found at www.awakealive.com.



AFRICA MISSION TRIP WITH PASTOR AND JONI PANITZKE

Pastor Panitzke and his wife, Joni, will be embarking on a mission trip to Africa this summer and you are invited as well! The trip will focus on the schools and Seminary of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa located in Lusaka. The Vulnerable Children's Foundation, who is sponsoring the trip, works with the LCCA in funding the schools there. For more information and a trip itinerary visit www.vulnerablechildren.net or speak with Pastor Panitzke.

PICKLEBALL – WINTER SEASON 2019 – REGISTER NOW

St. Paul's outreach team plans various events that are easy to invite your unchurched friends to as a way to build relationships. The wildly popular pickleball league is back for another season in our Trinity Gym! Register now before we open it up to the community in 2 weeks. Spots will fill up immediately. The season begins Thursday, January 10, 7:00 – 9:00 pm and will continue at this time slot until March 7. There will be two courts of competitive play and two courts social. Equipment is provided. Pick up a registration form and more information at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

THE BRIDGE 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – DECEMBER 9

- **The Bridge History**

Five years ago we tried something different... a new ministry on our campus designed especially to be welcoming to our guests who are not looking for a traditional worship setting. We moved communion to a short service at 9:45 am, thirty minutes before The Bridge started. This has helped many of our guests feel comfortable learning and growing at their own pace. We purchased over \$50,000 of equipment and a small army of volunteers set it all up every Sunday morning to transform the Trinity Gym into a modern worship environment. God has blessed this effort over the years resulting in many new people coming to our campus and The Bridge often being the largest attended service for the weekend.

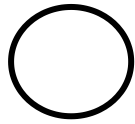


- **The Bridge Celebration and Cookout – Sunday, December 9**

We are planning an anniversary service at The Bridge on December 9 to celebrate God's blessings on The Bridge and to honor our many volunteers. A cookout of brats, hot dogs, chips, dessert, and drinks will be available in the Trinity Café following the service. Mark the back of your Connection Card if you think you can come - that way we will have plenty of food for all.

- **The Bridge Future**

We invite you to give thank-offerings to A Cool Million and designate them "The Bridge." Our desire is to install some permanent lighting and sound equipment to lessen the weekly set-up-and-take-down tasks and wear-and-tear on equipment. We are also exploring opportunities God may give us to develop a second site for The Bridge at another location in our area to reach more people for Christ.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Start your time together with an Advent season check-in: Do you feel more excited or exhausted for this upcoming celebration of Christmas?

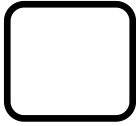
2. This week's message is about timing - specifically God's timing. Can you recall a time in our world's history when it might have been especially difficult to trust that God's timing is indeed perfect?

3. In his message, Pastor Strobel reminded us that salvation was a calculated plan. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. This is one example of God's calculated plan. Break your group into two. Which group can come up with the most Christmas prophecies of the Messiah?

4. Read Acts 1:1-11. What kinds of challenges do you imagine the disciples had regarding God's timing and his plan involving them as they waited for this mysterious gift of "power when the Holy Spirit comes on you?"

5. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Ponder the "inevitable" things of life. Does the inevitable bring fear? Where is your comfort in light of the sermon text and theme?

5. Can you think of anyone in your life who is going through a difficult or painful situation and might need to hear about the comfort of God's perfect timing? What did you learn from this week's message that you could share as comfort?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

THE MESSIAH KNOWS WHEN TO SHOW UP

“Really, God?! Your timing is impeccable!”

1. Timing is Everything

- A. God is the _____ of time.
- B. His salvation is a _____ plan.

Application Are we conscious of God’s hand at work in every moment of our world?

2. His Mission is Critical

- A. The _____ sets things in motion.
- B. The _____ establishes “the Mission.”

Application I am not sure that my life is always focused on “mission critical”.

3. The Vision is Timeless

- A. How to _____ Him?
- B. To what end or _____ ?

Application How can you as God’s resident missionary help ME as your Resident Missionary?

Next Steps

- **Ponder Reality.** Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Ponder the “inevitable” things of life. Does the inevitable bring fear? Where is your comfort in light of the sermon text and theme?
- **Tweak Your Vision.** Put Galatians 6:7-10 into your own words. How in-tune are you with God’s priorities for your living? List things that sidetrack God’s purpose for you.
- **Take a Look at the Second Coming.** Read Matthew 25:31-46. How is Jesus himself the “key” to understanding this picture? Add in Luke 21:25-28. Put into words the importance of “The Great Commission” for our world.