



**THE HOPES AND FEARS
HE KNOWS WHEN TO SPEAK UP**

December 9, 2018

Welcome / Candle Lighting

Call to Worship

Angels We Have Heard on High

Prayer

Confession and Forgiveness

Communion Greeting/Blessing

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

Communion Distribution

See communion note on page 2.

Distribution Songs

**Still, My Soul, Be Still, Lutheran School Grades 4 and 5
Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel**

First Lesson

2 Samuel 7:8-16, Bible page 306
The LORD promised David that the Savior would come from his family.

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38, Bible page 1025
The angel Gabriel announces the fulfillment of God's promise given to David.

Offering

Message Song

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Message

Psalm 89, Bible page 590
Pastor Peter Panitzke

Prayer / Lord's Prayer /Blessing

Sending Song

What a Glorious Night

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, entitled *Following the Promise*, to provide an overview of our teachings. Contact Pastor Nate Strobel at nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org to find the session that works best for your schedule.*

*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 pew in the left center section is 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.

WATCH ONLINE



- **Watch Live:** Attend church remotely on Sundays at The Bridge at 10:15 am. Live streaming is available at www.thebridgemuskego.org, Facebook at *The Bridge at St. Paul's*, and You Tube at *The Bridge Church Muskego*. All past live replays are also available on each platform.
 - **Sermon Videos and MP3s:** Sunday sermons are available at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org. They are usually available Sunday evening for that same Sunday's message.
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WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of December 10, 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 |
| | 5:30 pm | Dorcas Society Christmas Party (Grace Room) |
| | 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 | 9:30 am | Mommy & Me (Faith Room) |
| | 9:45 am | Reading Buddies (Trinity Café) |
| | 11:00 am | OWLS Christmas Party (Muskego Regency Center) |
| | 3:30 pm | Advent Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| | 4:30 pm | Public School 6-8 Grade Confirmation Instruction 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) |
| | 5:30 pm | St. Paul's Childcare Christmas Program (Main Church) |
| | 7:00 pm | The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice |
| SAT | 8:00 am | Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) |
| | 5:00 pm | Traditional Worship Service |
| SUN | 7:45 am | Traditional Worship Service |
| | 8:30 am | <i>Following the Promise</i> (School Classroom #8) |
| | 9:15 am | Traditional Worship Service |
| | 9:15 am | Grace Room Bible Study |
| | 9:45 am | The Bridge Communion |
| | 10:15 am | The Bridge |
| | 10:45 am | Contemporary Worship Service |
| | 6:30 pm | TUG – Teens Under God |



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.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar were given in loving memory of Ruth Dorn and Pastor and Margaret Albrecht by the Dorn family.

HOSPITALIZED

Audrey Wefel 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

1039 were in attendance for weekend services. 431 attended midweek Advent 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 if needed.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL TEACHER DIVINE CALLS

On Tuesday, 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.

DECEMBER BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Join Pastor Dr. Ken Fischer, President of Wisconsin Lutheran High School, for this compelling, four-week series: *From Christ to Constantine-The Testimony and Trial of the Early Church* on December 9, 16, and 23, 9:15-10:15 am in the Grace Room. There will be no Bible class on December 30.

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 and 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.



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. Pick up a registration form and more information about our pickleball league at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

ST. PAUL'S TEEN BASKETBALL LEAGUE TO START

As part of our ministry to teens, St. Paul's would like to enter a team in the 2018-19 WELS High School Boys' Basketball League. The league season begins in late December/early January and goes to the beginning of March. Pick up a flyer with more information at the Welcome Center!

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

THANK YOU FOR THIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!

Thank you to the 120 volunteers who helped make St. Paul's 2018 Living Nativity a success. A total of 1,495 individuals attended the three-night run. Since St. Paul's first Living Nativity in 2000, over 30,000 people have experienced this celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ to the world.

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 are taking a closer look at beloved carols for the newborn King. Each service will begin with a Christmas carol hymn-sing 15 minutes prior.

December 12 **Behold, a Branch is Growing** **Hymn 47**

December 19 **Where Shepherds Lately Knelt** **Hymn 54**

Soup Supper Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the soup supper on Wednesday and supported St. Paul's Cancer Support Group. This was our only soup supper for Advent this year. Watch for the soup suppers to return for midweek Lenten services.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's Childcare Christmas Program *Thursday, December 13, 5:30 pm*

Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Services *Friday, December 21, 5:00 and 7:00 pm*

Christmas Eve *Noon at The Bridge*
2:00, 4:00, 6:00, and 10:00 pm Traditional Services

Christmas Day with Holy Communion *8:00 and 10:00 am*

New Year's Eve *7:00 pm*

REMEMBERING ST. PAUL'S HOMEBOUND

Since many of you like to remember our homebound members with a card, note, or phone call at this time of the year, a list of our homebound members has been placed at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kuehl or any visitor who serves on our Homebound Visitation Ministry Team. Their names and numbers are included on the roster.

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.

PONDERING OUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

This is the theme of the Tuesday Ladies Bible Study sessions for the month of December. Join over 20 other women in discussing and singing Christmas Carols the Christian church has sung and loved for centuries, as well as more recent additions. Tuesday mornings at 9:30 in the Faith Room.

OWLS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come celebrate Christmas at the Organization for Wisconsin Lutheran Seniors Christmas luncheon at the Muskego Regency Center on Wednesday, December 12 at 11:00 am. Contact Charlene Pingel at (262) 490-2579 for more information.

Sermon Notes: Psalm 89

A Song of Praise to the LORD's Faithfulness (The LORD's Amen!)

- ¹ I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your **faithfulness** known through all generations.
- ² I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your **faithfulness** in heaven itself.
- ³ You said, "I have made a **covenant** with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant,
- ⁴ "I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations."

The Multitudes of Heaven Praise the LORD's Faithfulness

- ⁵ The heavens praise your wonders, LORD, your **faithfulness** too, in the assembly of the holy ones.
- ⁶ For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD?
Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings?
- ⁷ In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.
- ⁸ Who is like you, LORD God Almighty? You, LORD, are mighty, and your **faithfulness** surrounds you.

The Created World Praises the LORD's Faithfulness

- ⁹ You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them.
- ¹⁰ You crushed Rahab like one of the slain; with your strong arm you scattered your enemies.
- ¹¹ The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it.
- ¹² You created the north and the south; Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name.
- ¹³ Your arm is endowed with power; your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.

The Church on Earth Praises the LORD's Faithfulness

- ¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and **faithfulness** go before you.
- ¹⁵ Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.
- ¹⁶ They rejoice in your name all day long; they celebrate your righteousness.
- ¹⁷ For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor you exalt our horn.
- ¹⁸ Indeed, our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

The LORD's Faithfulness in Promise

- ¹⁹ Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful people you said:
"I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have raised up a young man from among the people.
- ²⁰ I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him.
- ²¹ My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him.
- ²² The enemy will not get the better of him; the wicked will not oppress him.
- ²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries.
- ²⁴ My **faithful** love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted.
- ²⁵ I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers.
- ²⁶ He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'
- ²⁷ And I will appoint him to be my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth.
- ²⁸ I will maintain my love to him forever, and my **covenant** with him will never fail.
- ²⁹ I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure.

The LORD's Faithfulness Even Toward the Ungodly

³⁰ “If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes,
³¹ if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands,
³² I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging;
³³ but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my **faithfulness**.
³⁴ I will not violate my **covenant** or alter what my lips have uttered.
³⁵ Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness—and I will not lie to David—
³⁶ that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun;
³⁷ it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky.”

The LORD's Faithfulness – Where is it?

³⁸ But you have rejected, you have spurned, you have been very angry with your anointed one.
³⁹ You have renounced the **covenant** with your servant
and have defiled his crown in the dust.
⁴⁰ You have broken through all his walls and reduced his strongholds to ruins.
⁴¹ All who pass by have plundered him; he has become the scorn of his neighbors.
⁴² You have exalted the right hand of his foes; you have made all his enemies rejoice.
⁴³ Indeed, you have turned back the edge of his sword and have not supported him in battle.
⁴⁴ You have put an end to his splendor and cast his throne to the ground.
⁴⁵ You have cut short the days of his youth; you have covered him with a mantle of shame.

The LORD's Faithfulness – the Basis for Hope

⁴⁶ How long, LORD? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire?
⁴⁷ Remember how fleeting is my life. For what futility you have created all humanity!
⁴⁸ Who can live and not see death, or who can escape the power of the grave?
⁴⁹ Lord, where is your former great love, which in your **faithfulness** you swore to David?
⁵⁰ Remember, Lord, how your servant has been mocked,
how I bear in my heart the taunts of all the nations,
⁵¹ the taunts with which your enemies, LORD, have mocked,
with which they have mocked every step of your anointed one.

A Doxology to the LORD's Faithfulness

⁵² Praise be to the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

My Next Steps to Hear the LORD's Amen

Read the promises of the Savior and their fulfillment:

- Monday: Isaiah 7:1-14 & Matthew 1:18-25
- Tuesday: Micah 5:1-5 & Matthew 2:1-12
- Wednesday: Isaiah 40:1-8 & Matthew 3:1-6
- Thursday: Isaiah 9:1-7 & Matthew 4:12-17
- Friday: Isaiah 53:4-6 & Matthew 8:14-17
- Saturday: Isaiah 6:1-13 & Matthew 12:15-21 & John 12:37-41

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** – The 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!
- **Mozambique Mission Work Expansion**
The December 2018 Malawi Mission Partner newsletter is at the Welcome Center. Pastor Holtz asks us to pray that the Lord of the nations would move the Mozambique government to approve our application to do mission work in their country. Thank you to all who give toward the Malawi Mission Partner effort. St. Paul’s provides about 1/4 to 1/3 of the support for Pastor Holtz’ ministry! You can give a special Christmas gift using your offering envelop or give online at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give.
- **Teacher Professional Development Fund**
Give a gift to our teachers by providing additional funds for workshops and courses. Gifts of any size are most welcome! Mark your gift “Teacher Professional Development.”

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.
- If you use the United Way campaign at your place of employment, you may be able to designate St. Paul’s or another ministry for your giving dollars to support.

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