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THE HOPES AND FEARS
HE KNOWS WHEN TO SPEAK UP
December 8 and 9, 2018

BELLS AND WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

M We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

M We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C **We light two Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

M Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

HYMN 23

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

BAPTISM (9:15 am)

Hymnal page 12

Madelyn Elizabeth Niepow

Daughter of Matthew and Kari Ann (nee Koenig) Niepow, born September 8, 2018

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

C **Amen.**

M As we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Savior, let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

M Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.

C **Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

M You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom.

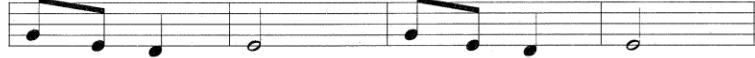
Cantor *All*



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

M You come in Word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness.

Cantor *All*



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy.


M You will come again in glory with salvation for your people.

Cantor *All*



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

M The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C  **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Heavenly Father, we are filled with wonder and awe as we contemplate your plan to save the world from sin, a plan promised in the Garden of Eden and fulfilled on the cross of Calvary.

C **For centuries your people longed to see and understand these things, yet in many ways it remained a mystery to them.**

M Thank you for making this mystery known to us and for showing us the depths to which your love would go to bring us back into your family.

C **May our celebration of Jesus' coming to us in flesh and blood revive our weary souls and inspire us to rededicate our lives to you.**

M We pray in Jesus' name. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-16, Bible page 306

The LORD promised David that the Savior would come from his family.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia! Alleluia! No matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38, Bible page 1025

The angel Gabriel announces the fulfillment of God's promise given to David.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY 32

When Sinners See Their Lost Condition

SERMON

Psalm 89, Bible page 590

Pastor Peter Panitzke

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Sunday*)

Comfort, Comfort All My People, *Robyn and Alex Bennett*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



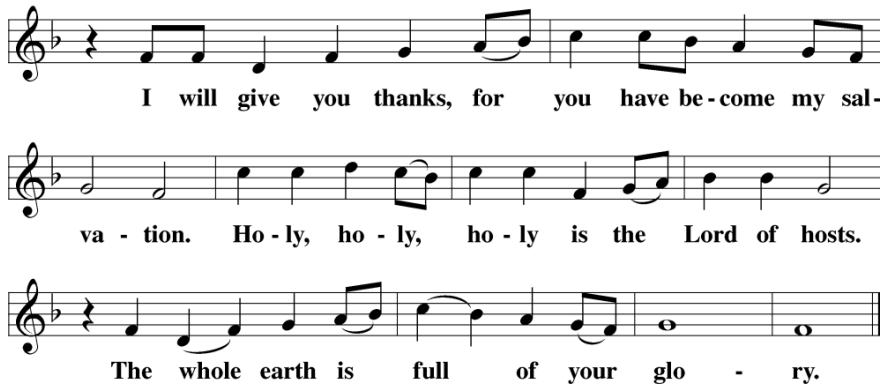
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-
va-tion. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

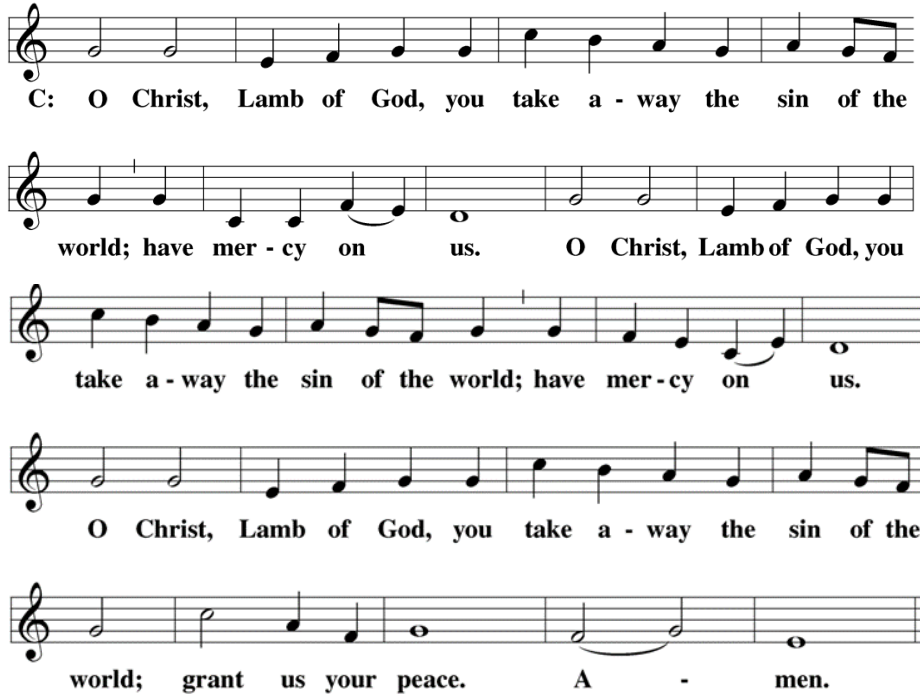
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 6.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 4

**Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates
Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**

M Merciful Father, we give you thanks and praise that you have fed us with the precious body and blood of your dear Son for the forgiveness of our sin. By your grace fill us with the desire and the power to walk worthy of our holy calling and to reflect your glory in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER (Sunday) Pastor David Kuehl

ORGANIST Susan Gedemer

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 and Sunday mornings. To register contact Pastor Nate Strobel at nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org.

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 right 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.

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

Watch Live Online: 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.

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.