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**THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS
ARE MET IN THEE TONIGHT**
December 15, 2018

PRESERVICE

Woodwind Ensemble
Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Silent Night
Away in a Manger
O Little Town of Bethlehem

BELLS AND WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

M We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C **We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. He is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**

M We hear his call to see the light.

C **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

M Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

OPENING PRAISE 21

Hosanna to the Coming Lord

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned.

C **Forgive and heal us.**

M The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

C **Forgive our disobedience to your will.**

M Your Son, our Savior, was born in poverty in a manger.

C **Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.**

M The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.

C **Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.**

M The wise men followed the star to find Jesus, the King.

C **Forgive our reluctance to seek you.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance.

C **Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light;**

M for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

C **and forever. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE 12, vv. 1, 4

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.**

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a, Bible page 931

*The promised ruler who brings peace to his people
will come from the small town of Bethlehem.*

PSALM 85

Hymnal page 97

Surely God's salvation is near those who fear him.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:5-10, Bible page 1211

*Jesus brought an end to the Old Testament sacrifices
by becoming the ultimate sacrifice for all sin.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 24

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Come

SERMON

Luke 1:46-55, Bible page 1025

Pastor Peter Panitzke

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Christmas Angels Medley, Woodwind Ensemble

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Sung to the tune of Away in a Manger

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us, from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day:
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In time of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver, Your child most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; o'er all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again,
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 28

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

CLOSING PRAYER

M Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

M 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.**

POSTLUDE *Shepherd Manger Medley, Woodwind Ensemble*

ORGANIST *Darik Mischke*

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Awake and Alive Video Invitation*

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 \$75. Further details can be found at www.awakealive.com.



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 17, 2018

MON	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Woodwinds Rehearsal
TUE	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Ladies Bible Study (Faith Room) Ministerial Growth Team Meeting Walking Group (Trinity Gym) Ministerial Team Meeting Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library) Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony) <i>Following the Promise</i> (Faith Room)
WED	9:30 am 3:30 pm 4:30 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Mommy & Me (Faith Room) Advent Worship Service Public School 6-8 Grade Confirmation Instruction Classes Advent Worship Service Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI	11:00 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Lutheran School Dismissed for Christmas Break Lutheran School Christmas Service (Main Church) Lutheran School Christmas Service (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am 8:30 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service <i>Following the Promise</i> (School Classroom #8) Traditional Worship Service Grace Room Bible Study The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service

MARK YOUR CONNECTION CARD:

- **Group Link—Sunday, January 13, at 6:30 pm**
How do we form small groups at St. Paul's? The easiest way is to meet others interested in a small group and find a time that works for you. That is what GroupLink is about. Join us for an hour. Perhaps God will use this to help you find Christian friends for life.
- **Find Financial Peace in 2019**
We will once again be offering the popular Dave Ramsey course Financial Peace University in January. Dave's proven money course will show you step-by-step how to create a budget, pay off your debt, make wise spending decisions, and save for the future.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISM

Graham Michael Romas, son of Joseph and Erin Romas, was born November 29, 2018, and baptized in a private ceremony on December 9, 2018. May God bless and keep Graham his whole life long.

HOSPITALIZED

Audrey Wefel is at Hales Corners Care Center. James Wirtala has been discharged from the hospital.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

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

ATTENDANCE

1066 were in attendance for weekend services. 322 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.

TEACHER DIVINE CALLS EXTENDED

On Tuesday, December 11, the School Ministry Action Team met to review two synod-provided call lists. The following day the Ministry Board extended a divine call for a full-time first grade teacher to Mrs. Candy Noffsinger, our former second grade teacher currently teaching at Clearfield Elementary in Mount Sterling, Kentucky. The Ministry Board extended the half-time Extended Learning Coordinator (ELC) call to Mrs. Sarah Tonn, currently serving as our morning first grade teacher. Please keep Candy and Sarah in your personal and family prayers as they now seek the Lord's guidance and deliberate these divine calls to serve the Lord and our families here at St. Paul's.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR MR. SETH FITZSIMMONS DIVINE CALL RECEIVED

Dear St. Paul's Congregation,

On Sunday, December 9, St. Stephen's Lutheran in Beaver Dam called me to serve as their principal and upper grades departmentalized social studies teacher. St. Stephen's is a congregation of about 2,000 souls and a K-8 school of 118. I appreciate your prayers as I deliberate the two calls I now have - my call here at St. Paul's and this call to St. Stephen's.

Sincerely in Christ,
Mr. Fitzsimmons

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 16, and 23, 9:15-10:15 am in the Grace Room. There will be no Bible class on December 30.

NEW MEMBER BIBLE STUDY – FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

Be more than a participant. Be a partner in our ministries! Join Pastor Nate Strobel in this "Bible boot camp." You will track the promises of the Savior from the Garden of Eden down to your own heart and life. The study will be led by Pastor Nate Strobel on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm beginning January 22 and Sundays at 8:30 am beginning in February. Contact Pastor Nate at nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org or mark the back of your Connection Card to register.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE – 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. Join us for our last midweek Advent service this year as we look at Hymn 54, Where Shepherds Lately Kneled. The service will begin with a Christmas carol hymn-sing 15 minutes prior.

LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE Friday, December 21, 5:00 and 7:00 pm

Whom Could You Invite?

Hearing the kids get ready for the Christmas service is one of the best times of the year. Hearing them sing. Hearing the 8th graders read their individual parts. Hearing classrooms get ready for recitations. All are awesome!

If a family you know is thinking about St. Paul's as a school home, inviting them to the Christmas service is a must!

The Christmas service proclaims what makes our school so important – the gospel is here! Whom can you invite?

Sincerely in Christ,
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons
St. Paul's School Administrator



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. PAUL'S

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 with Holy Communion 7:00 pm

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The office will be open 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, December 26 – January 5. The office will be closed on December 24, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

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.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS SETS NEW RECORD

Last Saturday's *Christmas for Kids* event bested last year's total by 13 for a total of 132 kids. The children enjoyed a craft, singing, snacks, games, a Christmas story video, give-aways, cookie decorating, and a 20-member steel pan orchestra from Wisconsin Lutheran High School. A big thanks to the 48 volunteers (21 adults and 27 teens) and to all who sent children to this fun and Christ-focusing event. It was a joy to see 91 of the children sing a song they learned at The Bridge service last Sunday. Watch it here: <http://stpaulmuskego.org/worship/the-bridge-live-stream>



CAMP PHILLIP SUMMER CAMP — REGISTRATION OPEN!

Located about 2 hours away in beautiful central Wisconsin, Camp Phillip offers a wonderful variety of summer camp experiences and lengths-of-stay for children in kindergarten through grade 8. The kids enjoy swimming, archery, crafts, creation encounters, outdoor sports, campfires, low ropes course (grades 3-5) or high ropes course (grades 6-8), and more. Amidst all the fun and games children learn how to put God first in their lives. Camp Phillip is affiliated with our church body and St. Paul's is a "partner congregation" which earns a reduced rate. For many more details, check out the Camp Phillip website at www.campphillip.com.



ART EXCELLENCE AT OUR SCHOOL

Congratulations to St. Paul's top three Lion's Club peace poster artists: Rachel Larson (1st place - center), Serenity Witzlsteiner (2nd place - right), and Abigail Prosser (3rd place - left).

The Muskego Lion's Club honored the top three winners from each of Muskego's middle schools: St. Paul's, St. Leonard's, Muskego Lakes, and Lake Denoon at a recognition event at Muskego Lakes Country Club.

"It was great to see all of the artists who entered the contest use their God-given talents to show so many interpretations of this year's peace poster theme - Kindness Matters," Mr. Fitzsimmons said.

Rachel Larson's 1st place poster now moves on to the district level of competition.

Thank you to Mrs. Shevey, 6th- 8th grade art teacher, for encouraging our students and leading our art education at St. Paul's!



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!

YEAR END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

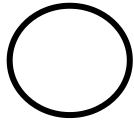
Many of us enjoy giving a special “thank you gift” to Jesus at this time of year. Here are some of our current opportunities to bless our community and our world.

- **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** – 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.

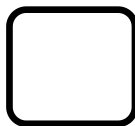


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. What was your favorite Campbell's soup when you were a kid?
2. Read together Mary's Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55. What words or phrases do you find most meaningful?
3. Mary's song shows she is a student of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah. Isaiah calls God "the Holy One of Israel" 25 times. What does Isaiah's call in Isaiah 6:1-8 tell you about God as the Holy One of Israel? Is it good news or bad news?
4. Isaiah calls God "the Mighty One" five times. Read his first use of the term in Isaiah 1:24-28. Again, is it good news or bad news to know that your God is the Mighty One?
5. Read again Luke 1:50-55 as Mary applies God's mercy and might to others. Who are the "rich" and who are the "hungry?" Who have reason to be afraid? Who have reason to take comfort?
6. We have experienced God's mercy and might that we might share it with others. List the people you would like to invite to worship with you this Christmas. Join together and pray for them.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

M'm! M'm! Good! M'm! M'm! Good!
That's what _____ is!
M'm! M'm! Good!

Luke 1:46-55, Bible page 1025

1. Sing "M'm! M'm! Good!" for yourself.

- Admit my need for m_____.
- See his m_____.
- M_____ m_____ my Savior.

2. Sing "M'm! M'm! Good!" for others.

- Hear m_____ and m_____ from others.
- Speak m_____ and m_____ to others.
- Sing "M'm! M'm! Good!" together!

My Next Steps to Magnify the Lord

- **Memorize** Mary's song Luke 1:46-55 as an outline for your own worship of the Savior...
 - Receive his mercy and might.
 - Praise his mercy and might.
 - Receive his mercy and might from others.
 - Share his mercy and might with others.
- **Mediate** on God's mercy and might by reading the Christmas accounts: Matthew 1, Matthew 2, Luke 1, and Luke 2.
- **Invite** friends and relatives to experience God's mercy and might with you this Christmas at St. Paul's.