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**THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS**  
**HE KNOWS WHAT WE NEED MOST**  
December 22 and 23, 2018

**PRESERVICE**

**BELLS AND WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

- M We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, virgin born, true God and true man.  
Only God incarnate can save us from our sins.
- C **We remember Immanuel, whose name means "God with us." He came to die to bring us back to God.**
- M We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.
- C **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our confidence in his saving work.**
- M Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

**OPENING HYMN 2**

**Savior of the Nations, Come**

**INVOCATION**

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

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

- M Brothers and sisters in Christ, draw near to God and he will draw near to you; humble yourself before him and he will lift you up. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit. The Lord will not despise a broken and contrite heart. We join to confess.
- C **Almighty God and Father in heaven, you raise up those who humble themselves and fill the hungry with good things. Before you we confess our many sins. Jesus is coming again. Yet we often fail to look for the return of our Savior and Judge. Time and again we prove ourselves blind to your coming in those who are lonely, hungry, cold, poor, and sick. In your great goodness, put away our offenses and cleanse us from our sins, for Jesus' sake.**

M God is faithful and just. God judges all people with equity. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. For you and for your forgiveness Christ was born. I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

M Forgiven and forgiving, carry the light of Christ's love to a dying world, a world aching for peace and hope.

C **Amen.**

RESPONSE HYMN 41, vv. 1, 2, 6

**Let All Together Praise Our God**

**Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again  
And gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.**

**He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone,  
Lies in a humble stall, Lies in a humble stall.**

**For us he opens wide the door Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
To God our thanks we pay, To God our thanks we pay.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.  
Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth,

C **that we may receive you in joy and serve you always.**

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

C **and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 7:10-14**, Bible page 686

*The Lord gives king Ahaz a sign of his faithfulness and love: a virgin will conceive and give birth to a son. His name will be "Immanuel," God with us.*

PSALM OF THE DAY

**Psalm 2**, Hymnal page 65

*Great are the works of the Lord.*

SECOND LESSON

**Romans 1:1-7**, Bible page 1126

*Paul calls himself a servant of Christ, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, but at the same time was the very Son of God.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 47

**Behold, a Branch Is Growing**

SERMON

**Matthew 1:18-25**, Bible page 966

*Pastor David Kuehl*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 who sent his Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels,  
 worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the wise men,  
 who lived to suffer and die, and rise again to free us from sin,  
 death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas,  
 by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ  
 the treasures of my love and live for him as my King both now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING

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.

CLOSING HYMN 34, vv. 1, 2, 4

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

CLOSING PRAYER

M Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGANIST *Nicole Greanya*

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of December 24, 2018

## MON

12:00 pm Christmas Eve  
Christmas Eve at The Bridge  
2:00 pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service  
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service  
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service  
10:00 pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service

## Christmas Eve

## TUE

8:00 am Christmas Day Traditional Service with Holy Communion  
10:00 am Christmas Day Traditional Service with Holy Communion

## Christmas Day

## THURS

6:30 am Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)  
10:00 am Walking Club (Trinity Gym)  
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 with Holy Communion

## SUN

7:45 am Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion  
9:15 am Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion  
9:45 am The Bridge Communion  
10:15 am The Bridge  
10:45 am Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion

## MON

7:00 pm Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion

## New Year's Eve

### 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.
- **New Member Bible Study – *Following the Promise***  
Pastor Nate Strobel will begin a new session of our new member Bible study—*Following the Promise* on Tuesday, January 22. Enjoy camaraderie with Pastor Nate while you learn the basics of what the Bible teaches. You will track the promises of the Savior from the Garden of Eden down to your own heart and life.

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## HOSPITALIZED

David Knapp is at Froedtert, and Audrey Wefel at Hales Corners Care Center.

## 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

1045 were in attendance for weekend services. 283 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.

## LETTERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear St. Paul's congregation,

It is an honor to have received the call to serve next school year as your first grade teacher and K-2 instructional team leader. I am truly humbled and grateful for the opportunity to consider how my gifts may best serve the kingdom of God. I respectfully ask for prayers from the congregation as I thoughtfully and prayerfully deliberate this call.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Joy in Christ,  
Candace Noffsinger

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran School and Church,

On Thursday I received the call to serve as your extended learning coordinator. In the next few weeks I will discuss with Mr. Fitzsimmons the current need here in the extended learning center. I ask that you keep me and my family in your prayers and that God shows me where I can best use my talents to serve him.

In His service,  
Sarah Tonn

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR MR. SETH FITZSIMMONS DIVINE CALL RECEIVED

On Sunday, December 9, St. Stephen's Lutheran in Beaver Dam extended a divine call to School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons to be 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. Mr. Fitzsimmons appreciates your prayers as he deliberates the two calls he now has – the call here at St. Paul's and his call to St. Stephen's.

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## **CHURCH HOLIDAY OFFICE 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.

## **FOCUS YOUR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE WITH HELPS FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY**

If you have children, you'll love the selection of over 90 Christmas picture books, as well as several Christmas DVDs now ready for check-out in the church library. A library volunteer will be on hand after worship services to direct and assist you if needed. The library is located across from the Faith Room.

## **REMEMBERING ST. PAUL'S HOMEBOUND**

A list of our homebound members has been placed at the Welcome Center if you would like to remember the homebound of our congregation during the holiday season.

## **AWAKE AND ALIVE 2-DAY CONFERENCE – JANUARY 4 AND 5**

Register today for the Awake and Alive 2-day conference. Awake and Alive is a ministry to serve young adults 18 to 25 years old. A great group of faculty and devotion leaders will be presenting. There is also a track for leaders of young adults. Cost is \$75. Further details can be found at [www.awakealive.com](http://www.awakealive.com).

## **DECEMBER BIBLE STUDY SERIES**

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

## **SING TO THE LORD: A STUDY OF LUTHERAN HYMNODY**

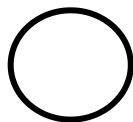
During the Sundays in January, the Grace Room Bible class will explore many of the great hymns that express the truths of Scripture with beautiful lyrics set to timeless melodies. These hymns make great tools for Christians to confess their faith and sing praises to God. The WELS-produced course, "Sing to the Lord: A Study of Lutheran Hymnody," will be led by St. Paul's member, Mr. Jon Eiche, an accomplished church musician, composer, and frequent Grace Room Bible class presenter. Class members will leave the sessions with a renewed appreciation for Lutheran hymns and the ability to sing them with greater understanding and enthusiasm. The class will be in the Grace Room at 9:15 am.

## **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.



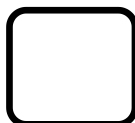
## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

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1. How has your last week of preparation for Jesus' birthday been? Do you feel ready to celebrate or are you feeling more ready to take a nap?
2. This week's message gives us reason to pause and reflect on one more way that Jesus is the answer to the hopes and fears of all the years. What has been your biggest take-away that you've gained from this Advent series?
3. Read the sermon text (Matthew 1:18-25) together.
  - How might these verses have sounded differently if Jesus had been born in today's culture?
  - What would have remained the same regardless of cultural differences?
4. One of the big themes of this message was the idea of surprise. The way our Savior came to us was certainly not how he was expected to arrive.
  - When was the last time God "surprised" you?
  - Was your reaction more like Mary or Joseph? How so?
5. Read Genesis 18:1-15. Compare and contrast Abraham and Sarah's reaction to Joseph and Mary's. In what ways did each couple honor God?
6. Have you or someone you love lost the awe and wonder of this amazing gift of salvation? Close your time together in prayer that we all marvel at his gift not just at Christmas time but in every season.



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

## The Hopes and Fears of All the Years

### + He Knows What We Need Most: Immanuel, God with Us +

Matthew 1:18-25 (Bible page 966)

Introduction: What was Joseph considering?

1. This was a disturbing discovery.
  - A. In biblical times engagement met the l\_\_\_\_\_ requirements for entering into marriage.
  - B. Mary was p\_\_\_\_\_, and Joseph was not the f\_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. Joseph judged Mary to be an a\_\_\_\_\_ and considered d\_\_\_\_\_ her.
2. This was an amazing announcement.
  - A. Mary's child was conceived by the H\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. This child is great King David's g\_\_\_\_\_ Son.
  - C. Our minds cannot c\_\_\_\_\_ the wonder of Jesus' incarnation.
3. This was a powerful prophecy.
  - A. Matthew adds further p\_\_\_\_\_ by quoting the Prophet Isaiah.
  - B. In the New Testament God r\_\_\_\_\_ what he c\_\_\_\_\_ in the Old Testament.
  - D. The world and everything and everyone in it wouldn't e\_\_\_\_\_ if it weren't for this child.
  - E. In this child God became our s\_\_\_\_\_:
    - a. Taking our p\_\_\_\_\_ under the law and obeying it perfectly.
    - b. Taking on our s\_\_\_\_\_ and suffering and dying on the cross.

Conclusion: Christ is your brother—you are safe (CW 53:4).

### My Next Steps

- **Read** 1 Samuel 2:18-26, Psalm 111, Luke 2:41-52, and Hebrews 2:10-18 to prepare for next week's message on *Jesus, Our Brother, Like Us in Every Way*.
- **Memorize** Matthew 1:23 – “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means, ‘God with us’).”
- **Marvel** that God would go to such great lengths to save you from your sin.
- **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to fill you with the courage and confidence you need to witness to the truth of Immanuel, God with us.