



S66 W14325 JANESVILLE RD • MUSKEGO WI 53150 • WELS • 414.422.0320 • WWW.STPAULMUSKEGO.ORG

THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS

JESUS, OUR BROTHER, LIKE US IN EVERY WAY

December 29 and 30, 2018

Christmas is a time when, strangely enough, many people feel the most alone. It's a time for family. Yet so many families are estranged or broken. Christmas is the reminder that we are never alone, that we have a Brother, who knows us, understands us, loves us, and will always be there for us.

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 343

Christ Is the World's Light

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

C **Amen.**

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus is the Light that shines into our darkness.

C **Yet we often choose darkness over the Light.**

M Acknowledging our weakness and our guilt, we come before our heavenly Father with humble hearts and confess our sin.

All **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

LORD HAVE MERCY

M In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

- M For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.
- C **Christ, have mercy.**
- M For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- M Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.
- C **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

All Glory Be to God on High

**All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.**

**Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.**

**O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
You take all human sin away.
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God's right hand, your mercy share.**

**You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you**
- M Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, in mercy you sent your one and only Son into this world. He took on our human flesh and blood and, in our place, he perfectly fulfilled your law in every way.
- C **By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory.**
- M We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
- C **and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 2:18-21, 26, Bible page 269

Samuel, Hannah's first-born, dedicated to the Lord, grew in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia! Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia! (*Colossians 3:15a*)



GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52, Bible page 1028

At twelve years old, Jesus amazes the temple teachers with his questions and his understanding of the Scriptures.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY 53

To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

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 9:15 am*)

Silent Night! Holy Night, Bruce and Betty Marggraf

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY IS THE LORD GOD (*Tune: "Away in a Manger"*)

**Holy is the Lord God, who's come to the earth,
To be our Redeemer, Our Savior, from birth.
Let all of creation join voices to sing,
Praise to the Almighty, our heavenly King!**

**How blest he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna, Lord!
The angels adore you; as on bended knee
We come to your table, your grace to receive.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C Amen.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Tune: "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

**O Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us!
O Jesus, manger-born, have mercy upon us!
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, our God.
Show mercy to us; grant us here your peace.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 6.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 61

37

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Once Again My Heart Rejoices**

HYMN 78, v. 4

O Light of Gentile Nations

**Let us, O Lord, be faithful Like Simeon to the end
So that his prayer exultant May from our hearts ascend:
"O Lord, now let your servant Depart in peace, I pray,
Since I have seen my Savior And here beheld his day."**

CLOSING PRAYER

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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 *Susan Oakes*

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.



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 31, 2018

MON	7:00 pm	New Year's Eve Worship Service with Holy Communion
TUE		New Year's Day
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	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
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries
	9:45 am	The Bridge Holy Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	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—Thursdays beginning January 17, at 7:00 pm**
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—Tuesdays beginning January 22, at 7:00 pm**
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.

LADIES AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP RETURNS FEBRUARY 6

The Ladies Afternoon Fellowship will not meet this month. Please join in fellowship at the next meeting on February 6.

MOMMY & ME RETURNS JANUARY 9

Mommy & Me is a social, spiritual, and service-oriented ministry for moms and young children—infant through age five. The group meets Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:00 in the Faith Room. Former St. Paul's School Teacher Samantha Lindner serves as the group's facilitator. For more information, contact Sam at (989) 284-2854.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

HOSPITALIZED

David Knapp is at Linden Grove New Berlin, Marlene Sobczak at Linden Grove Mukwonago, 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

826 were in attendance for last weekend's worship services, 1381 attended the school Christmas service, and 2520 attended the Christmas Eve/Day 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.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Our Sunday youth, teen, and adult ministries will not meet on December 30. The church office will be closed January 1. Office hours for January 2-4 are 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

DIVINE CALLS

Mrs. Candace Noffsinger has accepted the divine call to serve as our first grade teacher and K-2 instructional team leader beginning fall of 2019 and Mr. Fitzsimmons has declined his call to St. Stephen's in Beaver Dam. We praise God for blessing us with the return of Mrs. Noffsinger to our school and for Mr. Fitzsimmons' decision to continue his call here as our school administrator. We ask for God's guidance as Mrs. Sarah Tonn deliberates the call to be our extended learning coordinator.

PRINCIPAL FITZSIMMONS DECLINES CALL

Dear members and friends of St. Paul's congregation,

Thank you for your prayers during my deliberation of the divine call to serve as principal at St. Stephen's in Beaver Dam. After many great conversations with the leaders, both there at St. Stephen's and here at St. Paul's, I am declining St. Stephen's call and I am excited to continue serving here in Muskego. It is a privilege to serve as your principal. We are blessed with a great team dedicated to our mission – leading more and more kids and their families closer to Christ – through our Christ-centered, leading Lutheran school. I pray the LORD continues to bless our teachers and staff as we positively and eternally impact His people here in the Muskego area!

Sincerely in Christ,

Mr. Fitzsimmons

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

It's not too late to register for the Awake and Alive 2-day conference, January 4 and 5. 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.

JANUARY MESSAGE SERIES

JESUS FRIEND OF ALL

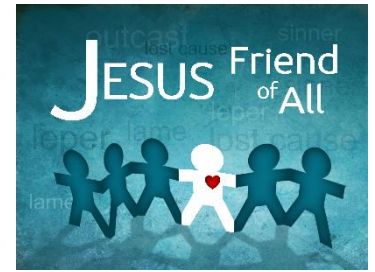
Jesus, friend of sinners, we have strayed so far away
We cut down people in Your name but the sword was never ours to swing
Jesus, friend of sinners, the truth's become so hard to see
The world is on their way to You but they're tripping over me
Always looking around but never looking up I'm so double minded
A plank eyed saint with dirty hands and a heart divided

Oh Jesus, friend of sinners open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers
Let our hearts be led by mercy Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh Jesus, friend of sinners, break our hearts for what breaks yours

Jesus, friend of sinners, the one who's writing in the sand
Make the righteous turn away and the stones fall from their hands
Help us to remember we are all the least of thieves
Let the memory of Your mercy bring Your people to their knees
No one knows what we're for only against when we judge the wounded
What if we put down our signs crossed over the lines and loved like You did

You love every **lost cause**; You reach for the **outcast**
For the **leper** and the **lame**; they're the reason that You came
Lord I was that lost cause and I was the outcast
But **You died for sinners just like me**, a grateful leper at Your feet
You died for sinners just like me, a grateful leper at Your feet

(Lyrics by Mark Hall / Matthew West for Casting Crowns "Jesus Friend of Sinners")



JOIN US IN 2019!

January 6	A Gift for the Lost Cause	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>
January 13	A Gift for the Outcast	<i>Luke 5:1-11</i>
January 20	A Gift for the Leper	<i>Luke 5:12-16</i>
January 27	A Gift for the Lame	<i>Luke 5:17-26</i>
February 3	A Gift for Sinners	<i>Luke 5:27-32</i>

JOIN US ONLINE!



- **Watch Live:** 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 MP3's:** Sermons are available at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org. They are available Sunday evening for that same Sunday's message.
-

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

RAWKs Seed Packets Share the Love of Christ at Christmas

In October, we distributed RAWKs Fund Seed packets. Envelopes with \$10, \$20, or \$50 to encourage individuals, families, or small groups to begin a Random Acts of Worship Kindness fund. Here are just a few stories we have received. Please share your story with Pastor Pete at ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org.

- A St. Paul's member often talks with a young man with disabilities who bags groceries at a local store. She learned he lives on his own. Just before Christmas she wished him a Merry Christmas and gave him a gift card as a Christmas gift to buy something he liked. He gave her a hug in response. Our member's comment: "So glad I found the right person to give it to."
- A young man at St. Paul's learned that one of his co-workers was suddenly a single mom after her husband left her because of his drug addiction. Our member mentioned it to his family who added more money to the RAWKs Fund seed packet. His co-worker's eyes filled with tears when he gave her a \$200 gift card for Christmas.
- A St. Paul's family asked a friend at Children's Hospital to pass on an anonymous gift to a family in need in the Muskego area. Their friends, members of our sister congregation, Grace Downtown, added to the gift. \$125 in gift cards was given to a family in our area who cares for foster children. Our members wrote a note that concluded with this comment: "We don't know you and you don't know us, but we do know that through prayer, God has connected us. We wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a blessed new year!"

Random Acts of Worship Kindness, done out of love for Christ to show the love of Christ. Thanks be to God for this generous spirit in his people here at St Paul's!

SING TO THE LORD: A STUDY OF LUTHERAN HYMNODY

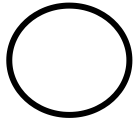
During the Sundays in January, the Grace Room Bible class will explore many of the great hymns that express the truths of Scripture with beautiful lyrics set to timeless melodies. These hymns make great tools for Christians to confess their faith and sing praises to God. The WELS-produced course, "Sing 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.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

If you are a cancer survivor, are currently battling cancer, or have friends or family members fighting the fight and would like to join a support group, or would like to speak to someone for support, please contact Karen Schram at (414) 529-5544 or Judy Schmidt at gjschmidt@wi.rr.com.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The St. Paul's Alzheimer's Support Group for care partners meets to provide comfort and resources for care partners. This support group is sanctioned by the Alzheimer's Association and meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, in the church library from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The next meeting is January 15. For more information contact David Timm at (262) 787-5955 or Andy Timm at (414) 254-3548.

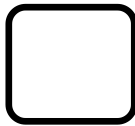


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Share a fun memory you have of your years growing up with siblings [or close cousins/friends if you didn't have any siblings].
2. How often do you think of Jesus as your brother? Is it something that comes naturally to you or do you need to be reminded?
3. As our brother, Jesus brings us glory and mercy. In order to fully appreciate these gifts, we need to understand why we need them. How would you explain this to someone who doesn't believe in God?
4. Read Genesis 3:1-7. What would you say to someone who claims, "I would never have been foolish enough to make the mistake Adam and Eve did, so why should I be punished for their choices?"
5. Read the sermon text together (Hebrews 2:10-18). Which verse do you consider the most helpful when trying to better understand Jesus' role as your brother?
6. Jesus is not ashamed to call himself our big brother. What kind of affect does this truth have on our relationship with people in our lives? How could this be even more apparent as we move into the new year?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Jesus, Our Brother, Like Us in Every Way

+ What a Brother We Have in Jesus! +

Hebrews 2:10-18 (Bible page 1205)

Introduction: Sibling relationships can be embarrassing.

1. Jesus came to bring us to glory.

- A. Jesus became like us in every way—except for s_____.
- B. Through Jesus, who is God, everything in the world e_____.
- C. We r_____ against the one who has created us.
- D. Jesus came to restore God's h_____ to us, which Adam and Eve lost when they sinned.
- E. The Savior promised to Adam and Eve would be the o_____ (Genesis 3:15) of a woman (a man, our brother in humanity).
- F. Accomplishing our salvation was God's p_____ from the start.
- G. Jesus is the author, or p_____, of our salvation.

2. Jesus came to be our merciful and faithful high priest.

- A. The book of Hebrews shows how Jesus is the fulfillment of many Old Testament t_____, or pictures of New Testament things.
- B. Old Testament high priests were assigned two primary duties:
 - a. To offer up s_____ (at-one-ment) for the people.
 - b. To p_____ (mediate, intercede) for the people.
- C. Jesus did what no Old Testament high priest could ever do: He made p_____ atonement for a ___ people of a _____ time.
- D. As a result of Jesus' atonement:
 - a. Our sins are f_____.
 - b. We are in a state of a _____ -o_____ -m_____ with God.
 - c. We are at p_____ with God.
- E. Even t_____ Jesus serves as our great high priest, especially when we're suffering t_____.

Conclusion: Jesus is not ashamed to call himself your big brother.

My Next Steps

- **Read** Matthew 2:1-12 in preparation for next week's message: *A Gift that Needs More Unwrapping: A Gift for the Lost Cause*.
- **Memorize** Hebrews 2:18 – "Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."
- **Find comfort and confidence in praying** by remembering that Jesus mediates on your behalf before God in heaven as your merciful and faithful high priest.