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**WELCOME HOME**  
**WHERE GOD KEEPS US SAFE**  
November 9, 10, and 13, 2019

*What does it mean that God keeps us “safe”? Christians throughout the ages have learned that God’s Church is both the most dangerous place to be and the safest place to be. How can both be true?*

**BELLS**

**HONORING OUR VETERANS**

**OPENING HYMN 220, v. 1, 2**

**O’er the Distant Mountains Breaking**

**M** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**M** “Surely the day is coming,” the Lord says. “It will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be like stubble.”

**C** **Those are frightening words for us. For the Scripture says that there is no one who does good—not even one.**

**M** “But for you who revere my name” the Lord continues, “the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings” (*Malachi 4:1,2*).

**C** **How blessed we are to know the name of Christ Jesus, God’s Son, who has paid the price for all our evil deeds!**

**M** Brothers and sisters, as we approach our Savior and our Judge in worship, let’s openly and honestly confess our sins, so that the sun of righteousness may rise on us with healing in its wings.

**All** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**M** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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** **Amen.**

**M** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## RESPONSE



Lord, when your glo - ry I shall see And taste your king-dom's  
plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al robe shall be, My  
joy be - yond all mea - sure! When I ap - pear be - fore your  
throne, Your right - cous - ness shall be my crown; With  
these I need not hide me. And there, in gar - ments rich - ly  
wrought, As your own bride I shall be brought To  
stand in joy be - side you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M Let us pray.  
Lord God Almighty, rule and govern our hearts and minds in such a way that by your Holy Spirit we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and to the day of your righteous judgment.
- C **Keep us steadfast in true and living faith and present us at last holy and blameless before you.**
- M We pray in Jesus' name. He lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## FIRST LESSON

**Jeremiah 26:1-6, Bible page 782**

*The Lord's judgment is coming to bring destruction on those who refuse to listen to his Word. We rejoice that in Christ, we are considered the family of God and so will be safe on the Last Day.*

## VERSE OF THE DAY



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL

Luke 19:11-27, Bible page 1052

*Through a parable Jesus teaches that on Judgment Day those who wasted their God-given gifts will have to give an account. Fortunately, when judging us, the Master will look at what Christ has done as our Savior*

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## HYMN OF THE DAY 337, vv. 1-4

Delay Not! Delay Not

## SERMON

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12, Bible page 1190

*Pastor Peter Panitzke*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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.**

I 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

## 10 for 10 Video

## 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. He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy. 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.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of six staves of music in C major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: '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.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the 'Words of Institution'. It consists of a single staff of music in C major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: '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.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the hymn 'O Christ, Lamb of God'. It consists of five staves of music in C major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: '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 below.*

## DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM *(Sunday 7:45 am)*

**Jerusalem the Golden**, Lutheran Elementary School  
Junior Choir ~ Grades 5-8

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 389 382

**Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**  
**My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

## CLOSING PRAYER

M You have led us to this table, O Christ,  
C **where we have been assured of forgiveness and peace.**

M Keep us faithful to the point of death,  
C **and lead us, at last, to eternal life.**

M You are Lord forevermore.



## 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.



**PRESIDING MINISTER** *(Sunday)* Pastor David Kuehl

**ORGANIST** Carol Nelson

## 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. Please ask one of our pastors about the current class offerings or contact Pastor Nate Strobel at [nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.com](mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.com) for available meeting times.*

*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.*

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of November 11, 2019

<b>MON</b>	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
<b>TUE</b>	9:00 am	Ladies Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	10:00 am	Pastoral Circuit Meeting at Victory of the Lamb in Franklin
	12:00 pm	OWLS – Organization of Wisconsin Lutherans (Grace Room)
	6:00 pm	Divorce Care (School Classroom 8)
	6:30 pm	Handbells Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> (Faith Room)
<b>WED</b>	9:30 am	Mommy & Me (Faith Room)
	4:30 pm	Public School 6-8 Grade Confirmation Instruction Classes
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
<b>THURS</b>	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	Pickleball League
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
	7:00 pm	Ministry Board Meeting
<b>SAT</b>	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
<b>SUN</b>	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
	8:00 am	<i>Following the Promise</i> (School Classroom #8)
	8:45 am	Dorcas Society Bake Sale (Faith Room)
	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

## SUPPORT MISSION WORK – DORCAS SOCIETY BAKE SALE – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

St. Paul's Dorcas Society bake sale is Sunday, November 17, after all worship services. All proceeds benefit St. Paul's Tuition Assistance Fund, Lutheran Women's Missionary Society, and the Malawi, Africa, mission. Donations of baked goods to support this effort may be dropped off in the Faith Room on Saturday, November 16, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. Contact Carolyn Bourdo at (262) 679-1136 with questions.

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## WISH LIST

This list of items (explanations below) would greatly benefit the ministry at St. Paul's. These items are above and beyond the budgeted expenses. If you would like to give toward a Wish List item, clearly mark your envelope, "Wish List," with the item title, or give online at [www.stpaulmuskego.org/give](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org/give).

Item	Est. Cost	Received	Still Needed
Promethean Board	\$4,500	\$775	\$3,725
Photo Feature Walls	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Church Signage Updates	\$6,373	\$0	\$6,373
Family Room Update	\$8,850	\$0	\$8,850

### Promethean Board

Promethean boards are touch screen tv monitors with better screen resolution than a smartboard and less maintenance cost. This Wish List item will fund the last of the three Promethean Boards installed this summer.

### Photo Feature Walls

Four photo feature walls will be installed in the church lobby and Trinity Café to visually communicate our core values to members and guests and to celebrate the gospel ministry God does among us.

### Church Signage Updates

For a first-time guest, navigating our church building can be challenging. The updates to the church signage through this Wish List item will include new exterior front door lettering and a total sign update

### Family Room Update

Our Family Room is used extensively by our guests, not only by parents with small children but also baptismal families, brides, and disabled persons. Our pastors often use it as a place to meet with members and guests as well. The room has had the same furniture for over 20 years. The furnishings below will update the room and result in furniture that is also easy to clean.

\$2,600 – Leather loveseat with accent pillows

\$2,600 – Leather loveseat and accent pillows

\$1,250 – Leather recliner

\$1,250 – Leather recliner

\$1,150 – Mirror and two end-tables

## HELP KEEP LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH CENTER AT GARDEN HOMES SHINING

The Lighthouse Youth Center on the campus of our mission partner, Garden Homes Lutheran Church, needs the following supplies to keep things clean and nice for the 50-60 urban youth it serves each day. If you could assist with obtaining any of the following, contact Dr. Nelson at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145:

- 8 oz. cups, paper plates, napkins
- paper towels, dish soap, dish scrubbers and sponges
- disinfectant cleaner, toilet cleaner, toilet brushes, dust mops, paper towels



# PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED

“You will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death” (Matthew 24:9).

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

“Brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:1-3).

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

## The Church – A Safe Place?

In our message today we are reminded that the Church is not a “safe place” for many Christians in the world as they suffer persecution. But it is also the only “safe place.” In God’s Church, we are safe in the hands of the Savior who promises that no one can snatch us out of his hand (John 10:27-28).

As you look at the map below and see the countries (in black) where Christianity is restricted and other countries (in gray) where Christians are often persecuted by family or community members, may it be an encouragement to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ.



# PRAY FOR MIRACLES

Thirty years ago, on November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall fell. You can see people celebrating on top of the wall late that night.

Do you know why the Berlin Wall crumbled? There are geo-political answers, but the best answer is: God's people prayed.

God's people had prayed for decades that the gospel could be proclaimed in Communist countries. The prospect seemed impossible, but "nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).



## Miracles Needed Today



Today Christians continue to face persecution. There is an urgent call to pray for Christians in northern Syria who are fleeing as the Turkish backed militias move into the area. Christians in this area experienced genocide during World War I and are fearful of a repetition. At left, a Christian mother carries her child and belongings with her children behind her as they arrive in a refugee camp near Mosul, Iraq.

At right is a picture of a 3000-seat church in Funan, Anhui, China, that was torn down on October 19, 2019. "It was mid-worship service when the destruction unexpectedly took place, and the church lost all of its property. During the demolition, Christians knelt in front of the authorities, begging them not to tear down the building. The church was not compensated for its loss of property. Authorities claimed that they were renovating the area and suggested that Christians attend other churches. They also claimed that they would rebuild the church in another region. Officials detained the church's pastors, Geng Yimin and Sun Yongyao, on suspicion of 'gathering a crowd to disturb social order.'" (<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/10/megachurch-demolished-pastors-detained.html>)



## PRAY FOR OUR SYNOD'S MISSIONS

Pressure continues to grow for the local church because of government policies and actions in East Asia. In fact, churches and Christian schools all throughout the mission field have been shut down. Many missionaries and their families have been forcibly expelled from the region. There is concern for how long our WELS called workers can



continue working in the field, but that is not slowing the work down. It has only made us more urgent to empower the local church to share the gospel. Our workers weekly mentor and equip dozens of leaders to reach out, disciple believers, and multiply leaders, and start new groups. More than 900 souls are being served with the gospel each week (<https://wels.net/serving-others/missions/asia/east-asia/>).

### Online outreach in a restricted-access country

Imagine a country where it is illegal for churches to gather without special permission, to proclaim any gospel other than what the unbelieving government approves. A country where churches, obviously, cannot do any promotion, canvassing, or big outreach events, where all social media is controlled by the powers that be, and where most everything that is perceived as coming from the West is considered suspect by the authorities. How would you do large-scale outreach and evangelism in a setting like that, especially when you know that there are millions of people in that country who are looking for meaning and are open to spiritual direction?

Believe it or not, one group has still launched an outreach website on the approved social media platform through the help of Multi-Language Publications (MLP). It is not overtly Christian, at least not at first glance. It talks about sports, common marriage problems, and movies that are popular. Each blog post offers simple life advice and insights on these topics to get people's attention and then quotes a relevant Bible passage. Finally, at the bottom of the article there is a link to more information. From there, readers can access a page that tells them more about the Christian message through articles such as "Who is Jesus?" and "What is the Bible?"

There is no way to promote this web page. There is only word of mouth. Praise God that several "Promoters" (outreach-minded brothers and sisters) have agreed to post the weekly articles on their local version of a "Facebook Wall." Praise God that, in the first 12 hours of the first article being released, there were already 753 views! Within a few days, there were over 1,200 views! But, more importantly, 120 people (10%) had gone on to view the article "Who is Jesus?"

The impact in a restricted-access country filled with spiritually curious people is powerful, and it is growing. In fact, this site is the sister of two other sites launched earlier, also with the help of MLP. The one launched in March, a simple discipleship website, had 7,300 visits last month. The second, a leadership training site, had 15,600 visits last month.

Please pray that these sites continue to grow and reach tens of thousands of people every month. Our goal for the first year is 150,000 visitors, and our 3-year goal is 1,000,000. Please pray that these sites are not shut down by the government. Pray that the authors, website manager, and "Promoters" have the courage to continue boldly and clearly proclaiming the gospel. But most of all, pray that the Holy Spirit works through the gospel on these sites to create and strengthen the faith of many people (<https://wels.net/online-outreach-in-a-restricted-access-country/>).



# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## 10 FOR 10 PLANS FOR GIVING

Thank you for returning your 10 for 10 Plans for Giving. There are extra packets at the Welcome Center. We pray for God's blessings as you seek to grow in first fruits, proportionate, sacrificial giving.

## 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. Our ushers are happy to assist.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Carol Beyer, David Burkowitz, Steve Drobka, Carol Gosseck, Lois Guhr, Connie Hikade, Josh Nagel, Carol Smith, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

## HOSPITALIZED

Marilyn Miller is in hospice care at Elder Care Cottages in Tichigan, Robert Siekert at St. Luke's, and Nancy Rindt at Waukesha Memorial. Roger Rasmussen and Robert Zahn have returned home.

## ATTENDANCE

1158 attended worship services last week.

## FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE STUDY

Be more than a participant. Be a partner in our ministries! Join us 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 with many opportunities to ask all the questions you may have. The study is led by Pastor Nate Strobel on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays at 8:00 am. Contact Pastor Nate at [nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org) or mark the back of your Connection Card to register.

## NOVEMBER GRACE ROOM SERIES

A defining moment in American Lutheranism occurred when the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod split apart in 1961. So what went wrong between these two church bodies? "A Tale of Two Synods" led by Rev. Dr. Mark Braun from Wisconsin Lutheran College and author of the book by the same title, is presenting a clearer picture of what happened and where things are today in the Grace Room, November Sundays, 9:15-10:15 am.

## THE ORGANIZATION OF WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SENIORS MEETS TUESDAY

The OWLS will meet for their monthly gathering on Tuesday, November 12, at noon in the Grace Room. All seniors are encouraged to attend. Bring a bag lunch and hear a representative from ERAS Senior Network speak on the topic of senior fraud and scams prevention. Eras Senior Network is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage and support Waukesha County seniors in leading meaningful lives ([www.Eraswaukesha.org](http://www.Eraswaukesha.org)). Contact OWLS President Charlene Pingel at (262) 490-2579 for more information.

## MARRIAGE RETREAT

Imagine a weekend away from the daily stresses of work, home, and the kids. You and your spouse together growing in your faith and in your relationship. Fun activities, uplifting music, and practical, relationship-building skills to bring to your marriage. This is what *With This Ring Marriage Retreat* is all about. It's happening the weekend of February 29. Find out more information at [www.withthisringretreat.com](http://www.withthisringretreat.com). Register by December 1 and save \$30 off the cost of registration.

# ST. PAUL'S YOUTH NEWS

## MR. JEFF WETZEL ACCEPTS CALL

The Ministry Board extended a call to our current 5th grade teacher, Mr. Jeff Wetzel, to become our school's first director of curriculum, instruction, and technology (DCIT) beginning in July 2020. Mr. Wetzel accepted the call on Wednesday, November 6 and wrote the following letter to the congregation.



November 6, 2019

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

On Thursday, October 17, I was extended a call to serve as St. Paul's first director of curriculum, instruction, and technology – a position that is being added to enhance the entire ministry of St. Paul's. After many prayers, encouraging conversations, and a few emails, I am confident that the Lord is leading me to accept this call!

Whenever a congregation decides to grow their ministry, there is a sense of excitement and curiosity. It is my prayer that over time, this position speaks for itself and that it is an asset to our school. I pray, and I ask you to pray as well, that the Lord will bless the leaders and teachers of St. Paul's to help evolve this position into a role that can make our school even better than it already is!

Finally, I would ask that you continue to keep all our ministries here at St. Paul's in your prayers, especially now, as we call to fill the teaching vacancy for the 2020-2021 school year.

Faithfully in HIS continued service!

Mr. Jeff Wetzel

## DR. NELSON VISITS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOLS

In an effort to better serve the youth of our community, Dr. Joel Nelson, our Director of Discipleship, asked for and was given a tour of Lake Denoon Middle School and Muskego Lakes Middle School by the schools' principals. One of the highlights was being greeted by a number of St. Paul's youth. When he asked one of the principals what was the biggest struggle for the students, she said managing their stress and anxiety. Dr. Nelson concluded his report to the Ministerial Team: "All in all another great visit, showing me that there are very dedicated, caring professionals in these schools who need our prayers and support. Our public-school member children/families also need our prayers and continued/expanded support."

## ST. PAUL'S STUDENT COUNCIL CARES

St. Paul's Lutheran School and Sunday Morning "Kids Club" are partnering together with the Muskego Food Pantry to do a food drive before Thanksgiving. We would love if you and your family would participate by donating nonperishable food items. There will be red containers set up in the church lobby and around school in which you can put the food donations. Some of the foods that would be most helpful to the Food Pantry for Thanksgiving are stuffing, mashed potato mix, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, canned pumpkin, and pie crust, but the Food Pantry would love any non-perishable donations available - especially peanut butter and other items on this list. The red donation containers will be set out through November 11. Thank you! - Hailey Ristow (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Council Member)



# PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

## THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS

### Pre-K and Kindergarten Thanksgiving Program

Wednesday, November 27, at 9:30 am, Centennial Gym

### Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 pm, and Thursday, November 28, at 10:00 am

## WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES

December 4, 11, and 18; 3:30 and 7:00 pm (*No soup suppers this year.*)

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

The Bridge Christmas Eve Worship Service: Noon

Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Services: 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 10:00 pm

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION 10:00 am

## CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

St. Paul's 2019 *Christmas for Kids* will be Saturday, December 14, 9:00 - 11:45 am in the Trinity Café and Gym and school. This year this widely loved event for ages 3-12 will feature *A Tree-rific Christmas* puppet show, *The First Christmas* movie, a special service-project craft, games led by Luther Prep High School students, singing, and snacks. Register on the back of your Connection Card or at [www.stpaulmuskego.org](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org).

## THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES

St. Paul's plans to disburse Thanksgiving food boxes on Tuesday, November 26, 5:00-7:00 pm, in the Trinity Café. Thank you to all of you who provided names of prospective recipients (30+) and to those who offered to assist.

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## SPORTS MINISTRY AT ST. PAUL'S

Do you have a passion for volleyball, pickleball, basketball, or sports in general? If so, you might be interested in our sports ministry at St. Paul's. Sports ministry connects members of the community to the St. Paul's family and facilities under a common interest in a positive, low-key environment. We are looking for additional people who are excited about joining our planning team. For more information please contact St. Paul's Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner at [swallner@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:swallner@stpaulmuskego.org).

## THE POINT OF GRACE MILWAUKEE AREA CAMPUS MINISTRY

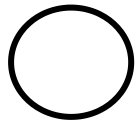
Join the discussion on *What Evolution Teaches*, led by Martin Luther College Professor Dan Fenske, on Wednesday, November 13, at 7:00 pm. Go to [www.tpog.net](http://www.tpog.net) for more information.

## PHOTOS TO BE TAKEN AT WORSHIP SERVICES

During the weekends of November 10 and 17, photos will be discretely taken before, after, and during our worship services for use on our website and displays in the lobby of church. If you would prefer not to be included in the resulting photos, please contact Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner at [swallner@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:swallner@stpaulmuskego.org) or (414) 422-0320, ext. 294.

## ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER—JOB OPENINGS

We have part-time job opening in the infant room of our Child Care Center, Mondays, 7:00 – 11:00 am and in the 2-year-old classroom, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 11 am – 6:00 pm. Please contact Child Care Center Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200 to apply.



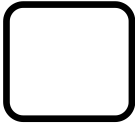
## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

*Life application questions for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.*

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1. Share with the group one high or low from this past week. Begin your study with a prayer that includes what has been shared.
2. Read Matthew 24:4-14.
  - a. Christians throughout the ages have looked at the signs of the end of the world and recognized that Jesus could come back very soon. Discuss how these signs are being fulfilled today.
  - b. How does (or how should) a knowledge that Jesus' return could come soon affect a person's life? For example, the use of time, relationships, financial decisions.
3. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10.
  - a. Why would a persecuted church find comfort in the knowledge that Judgment Day is coming?
  - b. Which phrases from this description of Judgment Day are remarkable to you?
  - c. "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here" is the sign above hell in Dante's 14<sup>th</sup> century epic poem *Divine Comedy*. What makes this a good description of hell when compared with Paul's description of being "shut out from the presence of the Lord" (1:9)?
4. Compare the statement that in hell a person is "shut out from the presence of the Lord" and Jesus' statement on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" What in this comparison has led the Church to say that Jesus suffered the punishment of hell while on the cross?
5. Before coming to the study, read the three pages in the worship folder about the persecuted church.
  - a. What was new information to you?
  - b. How might this knowledge affect your prayer life?
6. For whom do you want your small group to pray for, the one person that you especially want to reach with the good news of safety in Christ?



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

## Welcome Home to a Safe Place

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12, Bible page 1190

### 1. The Church? A Safe Place?

- a. A safe place for the Thessalonians? (1:1-4; Acts 17:1-9)
- b. A safe place for Christians in \_\_\_\_\_?  
YouTube: Search "Sang-chul"
- c. A safe place for you?

### 2. The Church! The Only Safe Place!

- a. The only safe place when you understand the times (1:5-7; Matthew 24:4-14)

Signs in society: \_\_\_\_\_

Signs in nature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signs in the church: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. The only safe place when you understand the judgment (1:8-9; Matthew 27:46).
- c. The only safe place to view God's glory on the last day (1:10; Ephesians 1:6).

### 3. The Church?!

Pray that God's glory be revealed in us so that \_\_\_\_\_ is welcomed safely home (1:11-12).

### My Next Steps

- Understand the times. Read Matthew 24 and 25.
- Understand the safety of God's glorious grace. Read Ephesians 1:1-2:10.
- Pray for God's persecuted church that they might be safe.
- Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ that he/she might see God's glory in you.