

## WELCOME HOME! THE PEACE WE LONG FOR

November 23 and 24, 2019

### BELLS AND WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN 727

### There Is a Higher Throne



1 There is a high - er throne than all this  
2 And there we'll find our home, our life be -

world has known, Where faith - ful ones from ev - 'ry tongue  
fore the throne. We'll hon - or him in per - fect song

will one day come. Be - fore the Son we'll stand,  
where we be - long. He'll wipe each tear - stained eye

made fault - less through the Lamb; Be - liev - ing  
as thirst and hun - ger die. The Lamb be -

hearts find prom - ised grace; sal - va - tion comes.  
comes our Shep - herd - King; we'll reign with him.

*Refrain*

Hear heav - en's voic - es sing; their thund - 'rous

an - them rings. Through em - 'rald courts and sap - phire skies

their prais - es rise. All glo - ry, wis - dom, pow'r,

strength, thanks, and hon - or are to God our King who

reigns on high for - ev - er - more.

M Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

C **To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen** (*Revelation 1:4-6*).

### CONFESSION OF SINS

M “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness” (*Jeremiah 23:5-6*). Since we have such a merciful King, let us humbly approach his throne, confess our sins, and plead for his mercy.

All **Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell. The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. But I, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your holy temple. Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness. For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield** (*Psalms 5:2-5,7-8,12*).

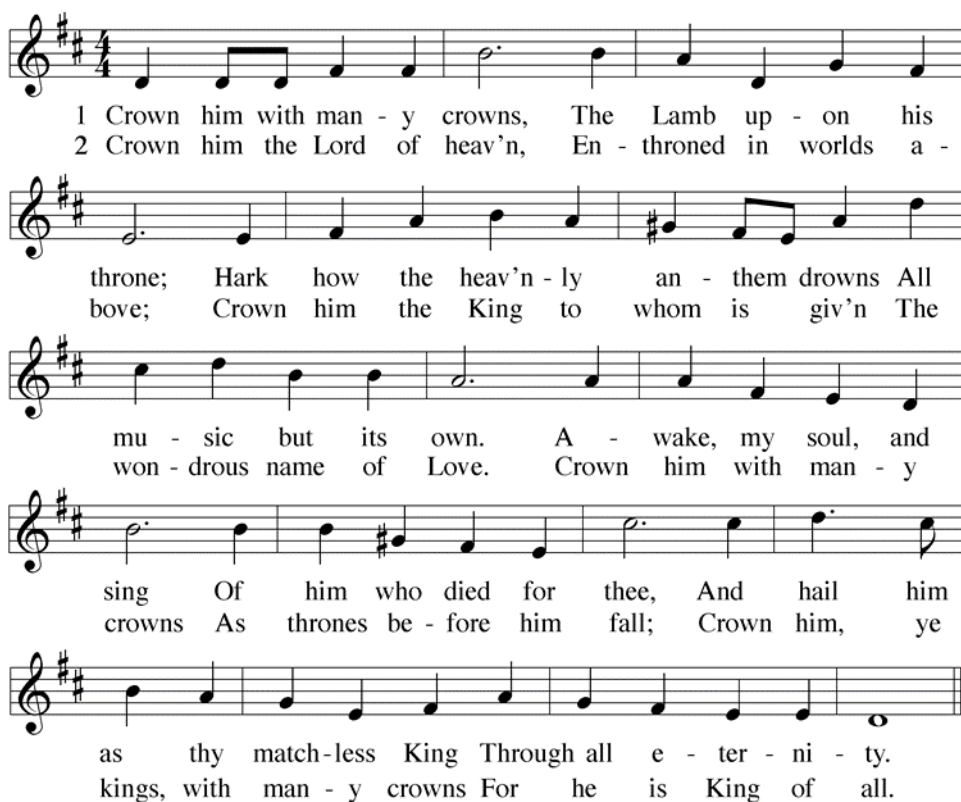
### LORD, HAVE MERCY

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us." The lyrics are written below the notes.

M As God’s called servant I announce to you what the Lord says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD, your Holy One, Israel’s Creator, your King. Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. You are my witnesses, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. I am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior. I am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more” (*Isaiah 43:1,10-11,15,25*).

C **Amen.**

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



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his  
2 Crown him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a -

throne; Hark how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns All  
above; Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The

mu - sic but its own. A - wake, my soul, and  
won - drous name of Love. Crown him with man - y

sing Of him who died for thee, And hail him  
crowns As thrones be - fore him fall; Crown him, ye

as thy match - less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
kings, with man - y crowns For he is King of all.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one.

C **Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you as King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory.**

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



C: A - men.

## FIRST LESSON

**Psalm 145, Bible page 624**

*As the Church Year comes to an end, we praise Christ our King for all he has done for us.*

VERSE OF THE DAY (*Saturday and Sunday 9:15 am*)

M Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.  
Alleluia (*Revelation 22:13*).



ANTHEM (*Sunday 9:15 am*)

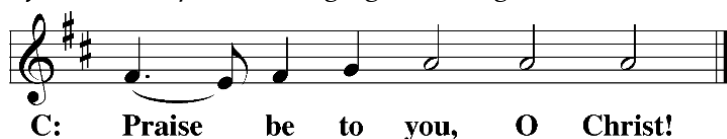
**Bring a Crown to Jesus, Lutheran School Grades K-8**

GOSPEL

**Luke 23:35-43, Bible page 1059**

*With eyes of faith, the criminal sees Jesus as a gracious king,  
suffering and dying for the people of his kingdom.*

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



HYMN OF THE DAY 351

**Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus**

SERMON

**Colossians 1:13-20, Bible page 1182**

*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.**

**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

10 for 10 Video

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever!

C **Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!**

M You are worthy, O Christ our King, to receive honor and glory and praise, for through you all things were made; without you nothing was made that has been made.

C **Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns!**

M You are worthy, O Christ our King, to receive honor and glory and praise because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased us for God. From every tribe and language and people and nation, you have called us into your kingdom and have made us priests to serve our God and Father.

C **Help us live as royal priests.**

M We give thanks to you, O Christ our Shepherd-King, because you have searched for us and found us. Lead us to the green pastures and quiet waters of your saving love, so that we may enjoy peace and comfort for our souls.

C **Heal our hearts when they are broken with sin and guilt. Strengthen us when we are weak.**

M We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. Come with your mighty power to break and defeat every evil plan and purpose of the devil, of the ungodly influences and ideas of the world, and of our own sinful nature. Use your power to calm the unrest among nations and peoples so that your kingdom may spread and grow.

C **Strengthen our confidence in knowing that your kingdom will never be destroyed.**

M O Christ our King, you have supremacy over all. You will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity. You have destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Reign in our hearts that we may serve you more faithfully and speak more boldly to others of your saving love.

C **Praise be to the Lord God, who alone does marvelous deeds. May the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

*Special prayers and intercessions.*

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever, King of kings and Lord of lords.

C **The Lord God Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! 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.**

## 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 un - to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God



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 preserves his Church to the end of time when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

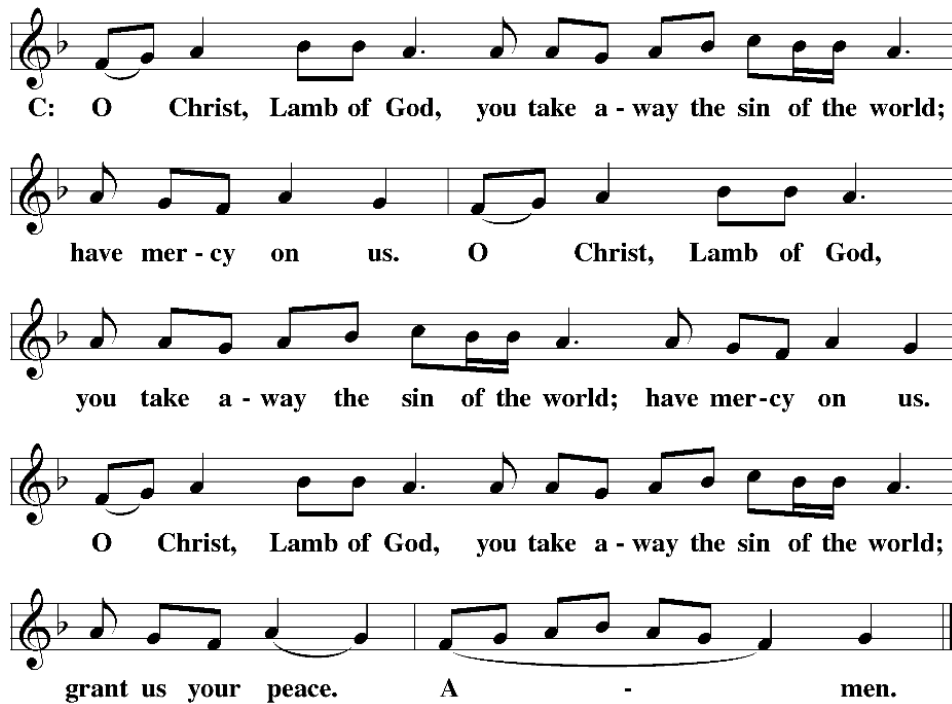
**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

**O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD**



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

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*Please see Communion note on page 8.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 361**  
217

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**  
**The Head that Once Was Crowned**

## CLOSING PRAYER

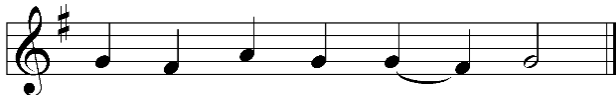
M We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

**PRESIDING MINISTER** *Pastor David Kuehl*

**ORGANIST** *Nicole Greanya*

## 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 for the date when the next class begins.*

*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. The first pews in the left center section are reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail.*



# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of November 25, 2019

<b>TUE</b>	9:00 am	Ladies Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:30 am	Ministry Growth Team Meeting
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	5:00 pm	Thanksgiving Food Box Distribution (Trinity Café)
	6:00 pm	Divorce Care (School Classroom 8)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Volleyball League (Trinity Gym)
<b>WED</b>	9:30 am	Pre-K Thanksgiving Program (Centennial Gym)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction
	7:00 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Practice
<b>THURS</b>		<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>
	10:00 am	No Lutheran School – Thanksgiving Break Thanksgiving Worship Service
<b>FRI</b>		No Lutheran School – Thanksgiving Break
<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)
	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 with Installation of Mr. Mike Westendorf – Artist in Residence & Director of Video Production	

**Holiday Office Hours** – The church and school office will be closed Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday.



St. Paul's

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.

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# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## 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.

## FUNERALS

Robert Siekert, born September 30, 1949, received the gift of eternal peace and joy with his Savior on November 19, 2019. Visitation will be Tuesday, November 26, 10:00 am until noon, with the funeral immediately following. All are invited to a luncheon in the Grace Room following the funeral.

William Curtis, born August 3, 1958, was called home to eternal life with his Savior on November 20, 2019. Visitation will be Sunday, November 24, 2:00-5:00 pm, and Monday, November 25, 1:30-2:30 pm with the funeral immediately following.

May our God of all comfort and hope be with the loved ones of Bob and Bill.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Carol Beyer, David Burkowitz, Steve Drobka, Carol Gosseck, Janelle Gray, 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, Dorrette Probst is at West Allis, and Donald Oakes is at Froedtert. Nancy Rindt and Ron Krebs have returned home.

## ATTENDANCE

1250 attended worship services last week.

## CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR RANDY FINK CALL RECEIVED

Please keep Church Administrator Randy Fink in your prayers as he deliberates a call to serve as director of mission advancement at Manitowoc Lutheran High School in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. He received this divine call on Saturday, November 23. May the Holy Spirit guide him through the good counsel that you and others give to him so that he knows how he can best use his gifts in service to God's saving plan.



## THE DORCAS SOCIETY THANKS YOU

It is with great joy that St. Paul's Dorcas Society ladies extend their gratitude to all who supported the Dorcas Society Bake Sale last weekend by donating or purchasing baked goods. \$1,800 will be evenly distributed among St. Paul's Tuition Assistance Fund, the Malawi, Africa mission with Missionary John Holtz, and the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. Plus, an additional \$200 will be given to WELS Lutherans for Life. A big thank you to all!

## FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE STUDY

Join this Bible basics class that you are sure to grow in your appreciation for what the Bible teaches. Reinforce the reason for the hope that you have and increase your ability to share it with others. This also serves as an avenue to membership at St. Paul's if you so choose. 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.

## DECEMBER GRACE ROOM SERIES

Using the first two chapters of Luke, *Important Arrivals: Jesus and John* will focus on how God prepared the ancient world for the arrival of his Son. Join Mr. Mark Ricke, director of enrollment for Wisconsin Lutheran High School and a veteran high school history and religion instructor, Sundays in December in the Grace Room, 9:15-10:15 am.

# LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

## GOD'S WORD AT WORK IN OUR SCHOOL

We are so happy to share that over the past month three families requested for their children to be baptized. One family is enrolled in our 3K and the other two in our kindergarten. Praise the Lord for these families who are strengthening their connection to Jesus in this way!

## UPCOMING 5TH GRADE TEACHER CALL

The Ministry Board, in coordination with the School Ministry Action Team, will extend a call for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher on December 4. As is our custom at St. Paul's, if you have any excellent WELS teachers to suggest for consideration, please share that information with Principal Fitzsimmons by November 25 at [sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org).

## ST. PAUL'S AND MUSKEGO/NORWAY LED TEST SCORES IN WAUKESHA COUNTY

The Muskego-Norway School District recently shared their 3<sup>rd</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade spring 2019 standardized test score rankings in relation to all public school districts in Waukesha County.

### English Language Arts

#### Muskego-Norway

Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in Waukesha County  
61% "proficient or advanced"

#### St. Paul's

65% "proficient or advanced"

### Math

#### Muskego-Norway

Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Waukesha County  
73% "proficient or advanced"

#### St. Paul's

75% "proficient or advanced"

These are strong test scores for both St. Paul's and Muskego-Norway Public School students. Keep up the great work, kids!

## MORE STRONG TEST RESULTS FOR ST. PAUL'S

We celebrate again with the following data from our fall testing:

**Reading** 75% of our 1<sup>st</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders scored ABOVE grade-level

**Math** 73% scored ABOVE grade-level

**Language** 81% scored ABOVE grade-level

Awesome scores! We are blessed with the ability to help our students' faith grow stronger in God's Word little by little, day by day, while also cultivating this high-achievement in our students. Please share these high scores with any families thinking about St. Paul's for their children's K-8 education.

## ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL ALUM HONORED

Congratulations to Noah Hirtz, a senior at Muskego High, who was selected as the Muskego High School Star Student of the Month and recognized in the *Muskego Neighbors* December publication. Noah is on a career path to becoming a plumber. He hopes to gain an apprenticeship right out of high school. Valuing hard work and putting his best effort into things, Noah knows that "even though it might be miserable at the time, doing your best is always worth it in the end" (*Muskego Neighbors*, page 11). Congratulations, Noah, and thank you for letting your Christian light shine in our local high school!



## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like to know more about our school, contact Mr. Fitzsimmons at [sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org) for a tour. Our participation in the Parental Choice programs and generous financial aid from our congregation enable us to make Christian education accessible to all who desire it for their children.

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## CONGRATULATIONS MUSKEGO-NORWAY WARRIORS FOOTBALL TEAM

On Friday, November 22, the State Champion Muskego-Norway High School football team returned to Camp Randal to defend their title. We congratulate the following St. Paul's members on the team: Adam Balcerak, Wolfgang Krill, Logan Lawonn, Joshua Johnson, Kyle Bettinger, Dylan Krause, and head coach Ken Krause.

## MARRIAGE RETREAT

Fun activities, uplifting music, and practical, relationship-building skills to bring to your marriage. *With This Ring Marriage Retreat* is 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.

## AWAKE AND ALIVE 2020

Awake and Alive: A national Christian event ministry for the 18-25 generation and leaders of this generation. Awake and Alive was founded and currently led by Mike Westendorf, St. Paul's new Artist in Residence and Director of Video Production. Make plans to attend the 2020 Winter Conference on January 10 and 11 at the Best Western on Howell Avenue in Milwaukee. Talk to Mike or visit [awakealive.com](http://awakealive.com) to learn more!



## 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. 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).

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

We have a 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.

## STONEY CREEK ADULT COMMUNITY CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Stoney Creek invites you to venture on a Caribbean cruise in March of 2020. A highlight will be visiting our Costa Maya mission partner. Find out more at the informational meeting on November 25, 10:00 am, at Stoney Creek. Contact Activities Director Anita at (414) 422-4686 for more information or visit [www.stoneycreekmuskego.com](http://www.stoneycreekmuskego.com)

## ISRAEL WITH PASTOR AND JONI PANITZKE

Walk where Jesus walked, and read your Bible with new understanding and excitement. Join Pastor and Joni on a trip to Israel, June 16-25, 2020. There are just a few spots still available. A trip itinerary is available at the Welcome Center or ask Pastor Pete.

# PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

## THE CHRIST CHILD SILENCES THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

For many, “the most wonderful time of the year” isn’t so wonderful. A painful past, personal failings, and unfulfilled expectations can overshadow the joy of the Christmas season. What if this year could be different? Let’s see how Jesus can exorcize the “Ghosts of Christmas Past” so that we can truly have a merry Christmas.



- December 1** Jesus Silences the Ghost of Unfulfilled Expectations
- December 8** Jesus Silences the Ghost of the Pressure to Perform
- December 15** Jesus Silences the Ghost of a Painful Past
- December 22** Jesus Silences the Ghost of My Personal Failures

## BE A LIGHT TO OUR COMMUNITY – HELP HANG CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ON CAMPUS

This year St. Paul's will be hanging Christmas lights on a few evergreen trees along Janesville Road near the main entrances to our campus. If you or your friends would like to help in this outreach effort, please contact Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner at 414.422.0320, ext. 294, or Worship Volunteer Coordinator Heidi Schuh at [hschuh@stpmsuskego.org](mailto:hschuh@stpmsuskego.org).

## REMEMBERING ST. PAUL'S HOMEBOUND

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

## A CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Often the Lord moves his people to want to give a special gift around Christmas. Here are some ideas:

- **New signage** for the church lobby and Trinity Café. Check out the display in the lobby.
- **Updating the Family Room** (formerly Mother's Room) just off the church lobby. The display board in the lobby includes pictures of the furniture.
- **Secondary Christian Education Tuition Assistance (SCETA):** This past week Nate Hintze, a senior at Luther Prep who received SCETA Funds, was accepted at Martin Luther College. Your generosity is making it possible for him to prepare for the pastoral ministry.
- **Lutheran Elementary School Tuition Assistance (LESTA):** This past week tuition assistance was awarded to a member family who thought Christian education would not be possible. Our participation in the Parental Choice programs and generous contributions to the LESTA Fund enable us to make Christian education accessible to a member family, no matter what their income level.
- **Cool Million:** Over the last few weeks, some of our school parents have been leading the way to fully fund this capital fund drive. The total received is now \$770,250 with thousands more committed.
- **Mortgage Fund:** We continue to reduce our mortgage debt on our 2010 addition. Debt payments are all made through special gifts.
- **Mission and Ministry Fund:** Special gifts at Christmas time are so much appreciated to keep all of our ministry funded so that together we can accomplish our mission: *By every possible means we bring every person within our area of influence closer to Christ.*

Clearly mark your gift with your chosen designation or make a one-time or recurring gift to any of these funds at [StPaulMuskego.org/give](http://StPaulMuskego.org/give). Contributions to the Mission and Ministry Fund can also be made by texting a dollar amount (example \$25) to 414-316-6733 (Think John 3:16; and 6733 coincides with My Savior For Ever on your key pad). Once you register your account, you can make a one-time or recurring gift.

# PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

## **PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN THANKSGIVING PROGRAM**

At 9:30 am, on Wednesday, November 27, please join our pre-k and kindergarten students in the Centennial Gym as they present their adorable annual Thanksgiving program.

## **WISCONSIN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS POPS CONCERT**

Enjoy the annual WLHS Christmas Pops Concert on Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 pm in the school auditorium. The concert features bands, choirs, and instrumental ensembles at the high school.

## **WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES**

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

## **CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 9:00-11:45 AM**

This 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).

## **LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Friday, December 20; 5:00 and 7:00 pm

## **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**

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

Tuesday, December 31: 5:00 pm (*Please note the time change from previous years.*)

## **GIFT TREE FOR MUSKEGO RESIDENTS IN NEED IN THE LOBBY**

Would you like to make sure that every resident at Muskego Health Care receives a Christmas gift? Select a tag from the Christmas tree in the lobby and follow the instructions. Be sure to register your tag! If you don't have time to shop, volunteer shoppers are happy to do the purchasing and wrapping. Contact Sally Wallner at (414) 218-5197 for more information.

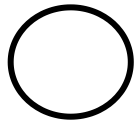
## **TOY DRIVE FOR KIDS IN NEED**

Provide a toy for a child in need along with sharing the good news of Jesus with each gift. Simply purchase a gift of \$15.00 or more in value, wrap it, and attach the provided tag available on the table in the Trinity Café.

## **HELP KEEP LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH CENTER SHINING AT GARDEN HOMES**

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 inner-city youth it serves each day. If you could assist with obtaining any of the following, contact Dr. Nelson at [jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org).

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



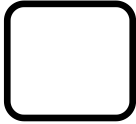
## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

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1. Go around the group, each person expressing in one sentence a reason for which they are giving thanks to God this year. Repeat two or three times if you have time.
  
2. Read Colossians 1:13-14. Paul mentions the “dominion of darkness.” We can only appreciate a rescue when we see the need for a rescue. Discuss evidence of the “dominion of darkness” that you see:
  - a. In our world?
  
  - b. In our nation?
  
  - c. In our community?
  
  - d. In your own life? (Share only if you feel comfortable doing so.)
  
3. Read Colossians 1:15-20. Which phrases are the most remarkable descriptions of Jesus in your mind?
  
4. Read Revelation 1:9-18 where Jesus as King reveals himself to the Apostle John and the Church living in a time of great spiritual darkness. What in this vision of Jesus comforts you the most?
  
5. Read Exodus 40:34-38. When Moses dedicated the Tabernacle at Mt. Sinai, the cloud of the Glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Then Moses explained that the same cloud remained visible as they traveled through the wilderness. That visible presence of God would comfort and reassure God’s people.  
  
Discuss this statement: Personal worship and worship as a congregation are meant to help us “see” God’s glory so we receive the same comfort as the Israelites did.
  
6. Review as a group the windows in our sanctuary which follow the church year. How does each season of the church year help you see that the Kingdom of God’s Son is greater than the dominion of darkness that we see in the world around us?
  
7. Close with prayer and the Lord’s Prayer.



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

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## WELCOME HOME!

### TO THE KING'S PEACE

Colossians 1:13-20, Bible page 1182

Which is bigger? The dominion of darkness or the kingdom of the Son?

What is the key to the kingdom?

Let the key grow in your eyes:

In the p\_\_\_\_\_ of Advent

In the g\_\_\_\_\_ of Christmas

In the p\_\_\_\_\_ of Epiphany

In the m\_\_\_\_\_ of Lent

In the c\_\_\_\_\_ of Easter

In the p\_\_\_\_\_ of Ascension

In the u\_\_\_\_\_ of the Trinity

In the m\_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit

### My Next Steps

- **The Darkness:** Recognize the dominion of darkness. Where do you see the power of darkness in our world? In our nation? In our community? In our church? In your family? In your personal life?
- **The Key:** Let the King grow larger in your eyes. Reread Colossians 1:15-20 each day this week.
- **The Key:** Make a personal (and family) commitment that a week will not go by in the new church year without you coming to worship so that your King will grow larger in your eyes.
- **The Darkness:** Whom has God placed on your heart, a person feeling the power of darkness? When and how will you invite that individual to come home to the peace that your King gives?