



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

THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

THE OFFENSES OF OTHERS

December 14 and 15, 2019

BELLS AND WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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

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

M We hear his call to see the light.

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

M Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

OPENING PRAISE

Hymn 21 (*Saturday*)

(*Sunday*)

Hosanna to the Coming Lord

The Wonder of Christ's Birth

(*Choir*)

Come, let us share with one another

the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

Come, let us share with one another, the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

Let us welcome the Prince of Peace! Let us welcome the Prince of Peace!

With joy and wonder and great thanksgiving,

Come, let us share with one another

the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

(Congregation)

Come, let us share with one another

the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

Come, let us share with one another, the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

Let us welcome the Prince of Peace! Let us welcome the Prince of Peace!

With joy and wonder and great thanksgiving, Come, let us share with one another

the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

(*Choir*)

Finding him not upon a kingly throne, but there in a lowly stable

Seeing the light of his glory glowing there, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

(Congregation)

Come, let us share with one another

the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

Come, let us share with one another, the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

Let us welcome the Prince of Peace! Let us welcome the Prince of Peace!

With joy and wonder and great thanksgiving, Come, let us share with one another

the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

(Choir)

Placing our gifts before the newborn King, who offers redeeming love,

Bask in the light of his glory, oh, so bright, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

(Congregation)

Come, let us share with one another

the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

Come, let us share with one another, the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

Making mountains resound with praises! Making mountains resound with praises!

With joy and wonder and great thanksgiving, Come, let us share with one another

the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth, the wonder of Christ's birth.

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

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

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

C **Forgive and heal us.**

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

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

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

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

M The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.

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

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance.
C **Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light;**
M for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
C **and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

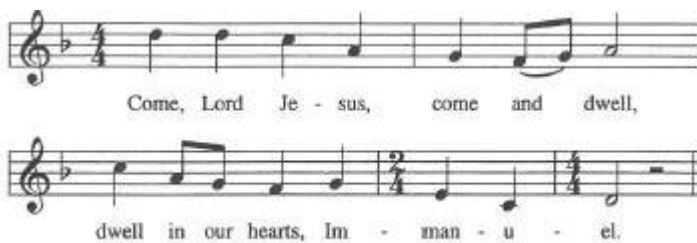
Isaiah 35:1-10, Bible page 713

The peace and joy of the coming kingdom of the Lord is foretold.

ANTHEM (Sunday)

Advent Prayer

Congregation sings refrain only:



*We are waiting on this day; Jesus will take our fears away.
We will keep our vigil here, as his Advent draws us near.
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.*

Refrain

*We are longing on this day; Jesus will take our sins away.
As a shepherd, he will lead; gently tend our every need.
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.*

Refrain

*We are reaching on this day; Jesus will lead us, light our way.
He will show the way of peace, from our darkness bring release.
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.*

Refrain

*We will expect him on that day; we prepare our hearts and pray.
He will bless us with his grace, saving all the human race.
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.*

Refrain

*Jesus in coming on this night, sent from God to be our light.
Let us praise our humble king, and with adoration sing,
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.*

Refrain

Dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2–15, Bible page 976

In prison, John felt defeated and possibly even questioned if all his personal sacrifice was worth it. Jesus' responds with compassion and encouragement.

HYMN OF THE DAY 23 (Saturday)

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

SONG OF THE DAY (Sunday)

In the Waiting (Oh Come Emmanuel)

(Soloist)

*In the waiting Lord, do you hear our prayer
In the dark of night, speak into our fear
Hold us, in the silence Lord
Remind us, what we're waiting for
God with us, Emmanuel
As we wait for you, hear our prayer
As we wait for you, hear our prayer*

(Congregation)

- 1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**
- 2. Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

- 3. Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

(Soloist)

*In the waiting Lord, do you hear our
prayer
In the dark of night, speak into our fear
Hold us, in the silence Lord
Remind us, what we're waiting for
God with us, Emmanuel
As we wait for you, hear our prayer
As we wait for you, hear our prayer*

SERMON

James 5:7-11, Bible page 1219

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(Sunday)*

O Savior of Our Fallen Race

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 15

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

CLOSING PRAYER

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

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

PREACHING MINISTER *Pastor Peter Panitzke*

PRESIDING MINISTER *Pastor Jeffrey Bonack*

MUSIC *(Sunday)* **Celebrate the Coming of the Lord**, by Johnny Carr and Don Phillips
Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming, by Cynthia Dobrinski
Oh, Holy Night Medley, arr. by Keith Wilbanks

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of December 16, 2019

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	Woodwinds Rehearsal
TUE	9:00 am	Ladies Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:30 am	Ministerial Growth Team Meeting
	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	6:30 pm	Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	6:30 pm	Volleyball League
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> (Faith Room)
WED	9:30 am	Mommy & Me (Faith Room)
	3:30 pm	Advent Worship Service
	4:30 pm	Public School 6-8 Grade Confirmation Instruction Classes
	7:00 pm	Advent Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
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
	7:00 pm	Card Players' Group – Hearts (Faith Room) <i>Come Join this Fun Group!</i>
FRI	11:00 am	Lutheran School Dismissed for Christmas Break
	5:00 pm	Lutheran School Christmas Service (Main Church)
	7:00 pm	Lutheran School Christmas Service (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	2:00 pm	Zoller/Bush Wedding Rehearsal
	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
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service
	3:00 pm	Hannah Zoller and Aaron Bush Wedding Ceremony

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The office will be open 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, December 26 – January 3.

The office will be closed on December 24, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISM

Noa Joan Fink, daughter of Joshua and Jessica (nee Rowaldt) Fink, was born December 10, 2019, and baptized in a private ceremony on December 13, 2019. May God bless Noa in her saving faith.

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

Gary Ives is at Froedtert. Dan Navarrete and Jon Schneck have been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

943 were in attendance at last weekend's services; 317 at midweek Advent services.

TEACHER DIVINE CALL EXTENDED

December 9, 2019

To the saints at St. Paul's, Muskego:

Advent greetings in the name of the Word made flesh! I write to you in acknowledgement of the divine call which the Lord has led you to extend to me – a call to teach grade 5 and oversee elements of Traditional Worship coordination at your church and school.

Please keep both schools, the associated congregations, and my family in your prayers through the deliberation process as God's hand leads to the best decision at this time.

May we simply and humbly pray along with the hymn writer:

<i>The world may hold Her wealth and gold;</i>	<i>To Him hold fast until at last</i>
<i>But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true treasure.</i>	<i>A crown be yours and honor in full measure.</i>
	<i>(Hymn 40)</i>

In Christ,
Mr. Paul Kanzenbach

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.

NEW MEMBER BIBLE STUDY – FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

Be more than a participant. Be a partner in our ministries! Join this Bible basics class where you are sure to grow in your appreciation of what the Bible teaches. Reinforce the reason for the hope that you have and increase your ability to share it with others, Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. Contact Pastor Nate or mark the back of your Connection Card to register.

AWAKE AND ALIVE 2020

Awake and Alive, a national Christian event ministry for the 18-25 generation and leaders of this generation, 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 to learn more!

4 WAYS TO INVITE TO OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Tis the season to celebrate! We are often very busy this time of year spending time with family and friends, attending holiday parties, travelling, shopping for presents, and much more. Naturally, it's can be difficult to pause and remember what all the busyness and celebration is for and what all the gifts represent – the gift of Christ coming to earth.

At St. Paul's, most of what we do in December centers around remembering that gift, and it all leads up to our Christmas celebrations. The Christmas season is a unique time of year when those who don't normally go to church are open to attending a service. We desire to see people from the community come and hear what God has offered all of us through the birth of Jesus. People will hear the message of the good news of Jesus in a way that is memorable, impactful, and hopefully sparks curiosity.

Below are some helpful ideas to invite people to one of our Christmas services this year!

1. Post Card Invites

Take a bunch of our Christmas post cards to keep with you throughout your day. You will find stacks of them in the lobby. Give them to people as it makes sense during your day – neighbors, coworkers, waiters, bank tellers, whoever you come into contact with!



2. Website

Tell people to go to www.stpaulmuskego.org where our website will open right up to information about our Christmas Eve services and what to expect on their first visit. You can also tell people to Google “St. Paul’s Muskego,” and they’ll find us that way too.

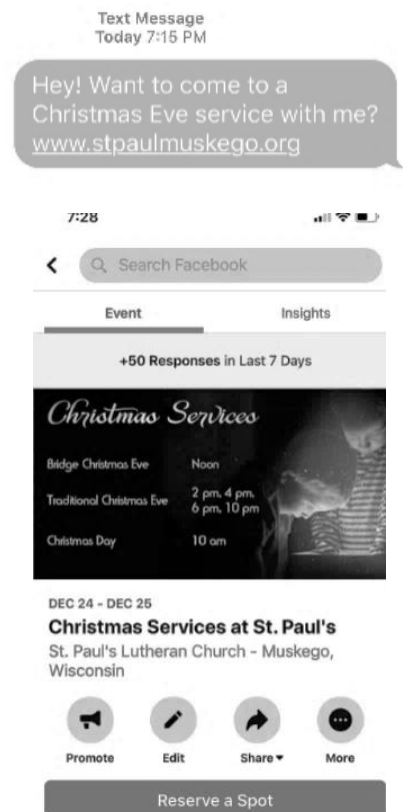
3. Text

Text them a link to our website where our Christmas Eve info is on the front page.

4. Facebook

Go to our Christmas Eve Facebook event page and mark “going...” and then share the event with your friends.

These are just a few ways to help you thoughtfully invite your friends and family to Christmas Eve this year. We are looking forward to spending Christmas Eve celebrating with you!



PRAISING GOD FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FRIENDS IN NEED GIFTS

Each week we receive gifts for our Friends in Need fund. The pastors use these funds to help people with food, gas, utilities, rent, medical costs and other bills. When a member or a stranger asks for help, two or more pastors talk about the help that we can give. We get the “thanks,” but you who generously give to the Friends in Need fund are the ones to be thanked. Here is a note we recently received:

Dear pastors,

The holidays are very hard for me and being in the situation I am in has weighed very heavy on me. Words cannot express the deep gratitude I have for helping me out... That was a great burden lifted off of me to take a breath from all the stress... Your acts of kindness have humbled me greatly. It has also shown me God's love for me through such a selfless act. God bless you both!

Signed by a St. Paul's member

Several months ago, we sought to multiply the Friends in Need gifts by using some of in “RAWKs Fund Seed Packets.” Here are a few reports of these Random Acts of Worship Kindness.

RAWKS AT WORK

I used money from my envelope to buy peanut butter for our homeless veterans in the Milwaukee area. It will be donated to the Clement J Zablocki VA Medical Center for distribution to the homeless vets. I told a few people at work about this Random Acts that St Paul's is doing and many other people donated. We got over 100 jars of peanut butter. Other people also donated baby wipes, band aids, deodorant, tooth brushes, and tooth paste. Ten dollars turned into 100's of dollars of items for our homeless vets really quick! Thank you for this opportunity to talk to others about St Paul's and this amazing thing.

RAWKS AT SCHOOL

We used the RAWKs money to fund a portion of a CD player that was purchased for a pre-k classroom. The classroom was in need of this for the kids and thought it would be a good use of the funds.

RAWKS ON THE STREETS

There are so many wonderful ways to share a little happiness with an unexpected gift. We knew, however, that we wanted to give the gift face-to-face and were watching for such an opportunity. The envelope rode around in my purse for weeks, until one day I pulled up to a stop light at a busy intersection, and there was a middle-age couple standing in the median with a sign asking for help, and I happened to pull up right next to them. I didn't think I had any cash with me, but then I remembered the RAWKS envelope and had just enough time before the light changed to fish it out of my purse and hand it to them and to share that Jesus was the reason for the gift. We so often feel tentative in such situations—questioning whether someone's motives are sincere—but perhaps we just need to trust that people who are humbling themselves so much to literally beg for help are truly in need and leave the outcome to God. “Crossing the barrier” to reach back to these people didn't come naturally to me in the moment. The lesson has made an impact, though, and we see more clearly how many opportunities we have to “cross the barrier” to others every day, not just to someone who might need a meal, but to someone who needs a kind word or just a smile.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES

On Wednesday, December 18, we will conclude our midweek Advent services at 3:30 and 7:00 pm with the theme *God's Glory in His King*. Enjoy the Christmas carol hymn-sing 15 minutes prior.



LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

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

Whom Could You Invite?

Hearing the kids get ready for the Christmas service is one of the best times of the year. Hearing them sing. Hearing the 8th graders read their individual parts. Hearing classrooms get ready for recitations. All are awesome! If a family you know is thinking about St. Paul's as a school home, inviting them to the Christmas service is a must! The Christmas service proclaims what makes our school so important – the gospel is here! Whom can you invite?

Sincerely in Christ,

Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons

St. Paul's School Administrator

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. PAUL'S

Christmas Eve *Noon at The Bridge; 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, and 10:00 pm Traditional Services*

Christmas Day with Holy Communion *10:00 am*

New Year's Eve with Holy Communion *5:00 pm*

REMEMBERING ST. PAUL'S HOMEBOUND

Remember our homebound members with a card, note, or phone call at this time of the year. A list of our homebound members and their contact information has been placed at the Welcome Center.

A CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX FOR THOSE IN NEED

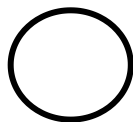
Our Food Pantry Team will be distributing food to families in need within our congregation and community on December 19, 6:00 – 7:00 pm, in the Trinity Café. If you know of a family in need or if your family could benefit from this service, please contact Pastor Kuehl at (414) 422-0320, ext. 121 or dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org.

ST. PAUL'S TEEN BASKETBALL LEAGUE TO START

Very soon, St. Paul's will be pulling together its team to play in the WELS High School Boys Basketball League. The league starts soon. If you are a member of St. Paul's and not playing on your high school's basketball team, contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org to receive information as it becomes available.

ST. PAUL'S CLEAN TEAM STAFF OPENING

A position on our clean team will be open in January. This paid position with 4-8 hours on weeknights and some occasional fill-in hours on weekends, is responsible for cleaning the school, church, and the child care facilities to create an optimal environment for student learning and worship. Contact Staff Minister Randy Fink, church administrator, at rfink@stpmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 120, to apply.

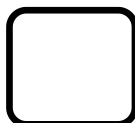


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Share your plans to celebrate Christmas.
2. Read James 5:7-11
 - "The Lord's coming is near." Do you think the author intended this as a reminder of good news or a warning of God's law? What makes you think that.
 - Think of a moment in an average day that caused you to feel impatient. What was it and what helped you wait patiently through that experience?
 - Now think of another moment of impatience - a bigger one; one of tragedy, loss, sickness or otherwise. What helped you wait patiently through that experience?
3. Read Psalm 73. The psalmist was angry because the wicked prosper.
 - What helped him gain a better perspective?
 - How does this account inspire you to approach your impatient moments differently?
4. Read Colossians 3:12-14.
 - Think of what Paul wrote as a Christmas outfit to put on before you go to family Christmas celebrations. What phrases do you especially want to remember?
 - What can you do to "clothe yourself" in this way? (Be specific - think of the conversations, personalities, and moments you will most likely encounter!)
5. Each person share one key idea learned from this evening's conversation.
6. Close with each person praying a short prayer. Remember that a person can say "pass" if they do not feel comfortable praying out loud.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

The Ghosts of Christmas Past

The Christmas Judge Exorcises the Resentment Ghost

James 5:7-11, page 1219

1. The Christmas Judge calls us to humility.
 - a. When I grumble about others, I make _____ the judge.
 - b. Offenses multiplied by grumbling (_____) = A call to repentance!
2. The Christmas Judge invites us to trust Him.
 - a. Trust the Christmas _____ (Isaiah 11:3-5)
 - b. Trust the Judge's _____ (The farmer's story)
3. The Christmas Judge calls for patience.
 - a. "Be patient" implies you will _____.
 - b. "Be patient" implies a need to _____.
4. The Christmas Judge produces perseverance.
 - a. You know how the story _____.
 - b. Pete Frates and the Ice Bucket Challenge story.

Next Steps toward Christmas Healing

- **A Call to Humility:** Think of the last time you felt slighted by someone. How many times has the Judge heard you grumble/groan about that event since then?
- **A Call to Trust:** Read Psalm 73. What brought peace to the psalmist's heart when he saw arrogant, wicked people succeed?
- **A Call to Forgive:** Read Colossians 3:12-14. What is the Christmas outfit to put on before you go to family Christmas celebrations?