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CULTURE SHIFT

WHEN CHILDREN BECAME PEOPLE

February 1, 2, and 5, 2020

The Christian faith is often viewed negatively as counter-cultural. A study of history reveals that when Christianity becomes the dominate faith in a culture, you notice very positive culture shifts. During February we will celebrate four of those culture shifts. Today's theme is based on the book by O.M. Bakke, When Children Became People: The Birth of Childhood in Early Christianity.

PRESERVICE HYMN SING

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 508

Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd

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 Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, through the prophet Isaiah the Lord shares this invitation:

C **Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy, and eat.**

M We truly have nothing to offer our God. We come to him as poor beggars, bringing nothing but our sin and shame. Yet in Christ Jesus he offers us forgiveness and peace, the richest of fare. Recognizing our great need and his unending grace, we come before our God in honesty, acknowledging the truth of our sin, and asking him to forgive us.

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.**

Father, hymns to you we raise
With sincere thanksgiving
And the Son and Spirit praise
With repentant living.
Evermore We adore
You whose love has stirred us
And whose pity heard us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
Almighty God, your Son took little children in his arms and blessed them.
C **So may we love, care for, and nurture the children you have given us.**
M We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
C **and forever. Amen**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 33:1-5, Bible page 34
Children are a gift from our gracious God

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 127
Children are a heritage from the Lord.

M Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.
C **Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.**
M In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat —
C **for he grants sleep to those he loves.**
M Children are a heritage from the LORD,
C **offspring a reward from him.**
M Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
C **are children born in one's youth.**
M Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.
C **They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.**

ANTHEM Sunday, 9:15am

Clap Hands

GOSPEL

Matthew 19:13-15, Bible page 986
Jesus makes children a priority in his ministry.

HYMN OF THE DAY 513

Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend

SERMON

Matthew 19:13-15; Bible page 986
Pastor Peter Panitzke

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

Video Introduction of the Thirteen 22 Society. See more information on page 8.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M O Lord, you have revealed your good and gracious will through your Holy Word to your people on earth.

C **Holy Spirit, cleanse our guilty hearts from apathy toward you and your Word.**

M Heavenly Father, send the Spirit of Jesus into our hearts so that we eagerly learn of you.

C **As the deer pants for streams of water, may we long to explore the mysteries of your grace.**

M Father, bless the efforts of parents to bring up their children to know you and your unconditional love. Bless our efforts as a congregation to help parents through our Kids Club, Confirmation Classes, our school and high school. Bless our synod's colleges and seminaries that are training the next generation of Christian leaders.

C **Holy Spirit, give us the willingness to make sacrifices so that we proclaim your faithfulness to the generations to come.**

M God of light, give the Church renewed wisdom and fresh understanding so that the message of your salvation may shine ever brighter in this dark age.

C **Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love so that others may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M Holy Spirit, come in power that there might be a revival in our nation, that our hearts, the hearts of our children, and the hearts of our fellow citizens might turn back to our Savior Jesus Christ and receive his gift of life everlasting.

C **May your peace, which transcends all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. 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.

CLOSING HYMN 46

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We

CLOSING PRAYER

M O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S MUSIC **Clap Hands**, *Composer Douglas E Wagner*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of February 3, 2020

MON	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) String Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
TUE	9:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Ladies Bible Study (Faith Room) Ministerial Growth Team Meeting Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Ministerial Team Meeting Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony) Volleyball League (Trinity Gym)
WED	9:30 am 12:00 pm 4:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room) Ladies Afternoon Fellowship – Speaker Kara Darling (Grace Room) Public School 6-8 Grade Confirmation Instruction Classes Traditional Worship Service High School Boy Basketball League (Trinity Gym) Brass Ensemble Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
THUR		No Lutheran School – Staff Retreat/Inservice
	6:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Quilting Fellowship (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI		No Lutheran School – Staff Retreat/Inservice
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men’s Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Grace Room Bible Study Kid’s Club The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Teen Boys Basketball Tournament (Trinity and Centennial Gyms)



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.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

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, Judy Schmidt, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

HOSPITALIZED

Marlene Sobczak is at Waukesha Memorial, Carol Gosseck is at Clement Manor, and Nancy Rindt has transferred to Linden Grove New Berlin. James Moll and Mark Navarre have been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

1017 were in attendance at last week's worship services.

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

We have a staffed nursery of friendly caregivers during the 9:15 and 10:45 am services in the east wing of the church. An usher will be happy to direct you if needed.

ATTEND OUR ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Enjoy camaraderie and a fantastic buffet style chicken dinner on February 16 10:00 – 1:00 pm in the Centennial Gym. All proceeds from the free-will offering will go towards the Cool Million campaign. Look for sign-up sheets in the lobby to help out. For more information, contact Chicken Dinner Coordinator Jim Ross at (414) 315-7119 or jcragency@gmail.com.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

It's time to sign up for soup suppers. Hosts are needed for the soup suppers provided between our Lenten services which begin with Ash Wednesday on February 26. As a host, you buy the supplies for the soup supper and all donations given at the supper go toward your supply costs with the proceeds going to a ministry of your choice. Dates needing hosts are March 11, 18, and 25. For more information and to sign up, contact Tammy Miller at tmiller@stpaulmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 111.

2020 CHURCH PICNIC

Opportunities for service on our Church Picnic Planning Team have opened up. If this is something you'd like to explore, please contact Pastor Kuehl at dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 121. This year's picnic is set for Sunday, August 2.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE STUDY

Invite someone to join you for the next *Following the Promise* class where you will be sure to grow in your understanding of the truths of God's Word and his promises for you and all people. The class begins February 11 at 7:00 pm, continuing for the next 11 weeks. Please text Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236 or mark the back of your Connection Card to let us know of your interest.

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JOB

Grow in understanding God's ways as you walk along with Job through his struggles. Join Rev. Dr. Mark Braun of Wisconsin Lutheran College for this Grace Room Bible study series the Sundays of February at 9:15 am.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWS

STRONG FAITH, STRONG MINDS, KIND HEARTS

Have you considered a Christian education for your child?

St. Paul's offers...

- Christ-centered teaching and learning across the curriculum
- Christian-centered character development and mentoring
- 75% of students scoring advanced in reading, math, and language
- Flexible 3K & 4K programs
- Before and after school care
- Generous tuition assistance—over \$600,000 in financial aid given each year
- Participation in the Milwaukee and Wisconsin Parental School Choice programs



If you were unable to attend the Open House or would like more information about School Choice, Principal Seth Fitzsimmons would be happy to set up a one-on-one visit with you. He can be reached at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118.

NEW SCHOOL CHOICE INFORMATION FOR 2020-2021

If you or someone you know might qualify for the Milwaukee or Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs, please contact School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons for more information at sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 118. We would love to have your family take a tour of our school!

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

Family Size	Single Parent Income Limit	Married Parents Income Limit
3	\$46,926	\$53,926
4	\$56,650	\$63,650
5	\$66,374	\$73,374
6	\$76,098	\$83,098

*Add \$9,724 for each additional family member

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)

Family Size	Single Parent Income Limit	Married Parents Income Limit
3	\$63,990	\$70,990
4	\$77,250	\$84,250
5	\$90,510	\$97,510
6	\$103,770	\$110,770

*Add \$13,260 for each additional family member

CALL EXTENDED – FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

Mr. Mark Sievert is currently deliberating the call extended to him to teach 5th grade in our school. Mr. Sievert is a 2002 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran College and previously served at Garden Homes Lutheran School and Hope Christian School in Milwaukee. We ask God to bless Mark as he considers God's will for his career path.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR SETH FITZSIMMONS CALL RECEIVED

Please keep School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons in your prayers as he deliberates a call to serve as principal at Crown of Life Lutheran Church and School in West St. Paul, Minnesota. May the Holy Spirit guide him through the good counsel that is given to him so that he knows how he can best use his gifts in service to God's saving plan.

THE THIRTEEN 22 SOCIETY

DO YOU HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN?

Great news! The answer is always “Yes!” If you die without an estate plan, the state provides a plan. The state decides who cares for your children until they are adults. The state decides how your financial assets will be divided up. And perhaps the state will get far more in taxes than was necessary.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN ESTATE PLAN?

If you haven't made an estate plan or will of your own, you are not alone. According to Caring.com's 2019 survey, 57% of US adults do not have any estate plans. Only 20% of younger adults (18-34) have estate plans, even though many of these young adults have young children.

ESTATE PRE-PLANNING

St. Paul's has contracted with SFP Estate Coaching (the same firm used by Wisconsin Lutheran High School) to coach 30 individuals or families through the estate planning process during 2020. If you complete the process with them, there will be financial assistance given to you to help cover a portion of your attorney fees.

We invite you to come and learn more about this service and the first steps in estate planning at our Estate Planning Luncheon on Saturday, February 22, from 11:30 to 1:30 pm in the Grace Room. Seating is limited. Indicate interest on the Connection Card today.

THIRTEEN 22 SOCIETY

“A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children” (Proverbs 13:22).

Many people have already included the Lord's work here at St. Paul's in their estate plan. We are forming the Thirteen 22 Society to celebrate your generous plans and encourage your ministry partners here at St. Paul's to do the same. If a gift to St. Paul's is included in your estate plans, please indicate that on the Connection Card.



ESTATE PLANNING OPTIONS

St. Paul's provides two options to assist you in your estate planning:

- Gift Trust Fund: 30% of the fund is available for distribution each year. Distributions are determined at the annual voter's meeting. An estate gift placed into the Gift Trust Fund is fully distributed over approximately ten years.
- Legacy Fund: 5% of the fund is available for distribution each year. Distribution are determined at the annual voter's meeting. An estate gift placed into the Legacy Fund continues to help St. Paul's ministry as on-going endowment fund. The Legacy Fund has four sub-funds that can be designated in an estate plan: Outreach, Christian Education, Capital Projects, or Undesignated.

For more information, contact any of your Thirteen 22 Committee members: Mike Meyer (chair), Joanne Fritsch (secretary), Jeremy Rynders, Dorothy Nowack and Pastor Panitzke.

PRAISING GOD FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR ETERNITY!

Each week people share prayer requests on our Connection Cards. Last week there were two requests for prayers of thanksgiving for the impact St. Paul's ministry has had on a person's life:

- Prayers of thanks for being a member of St. Paul's. It is everything I need and have never felt closer to God. Thank you!
- Prayers of thanks for bringing me to St. Paul's church... Prayer for strength and courage as I start cancer treatments.

We give thanks to God that he has made St. Paul's a welcoming home for us and for others. We give thanks for the generosity of God's people that makes this ministry possible.

GOD HAS RICHLY BLESSED ST. PAUL'S OVER THE PAST YEAR

- In June, the fiscal year ended with a cash surplus that we were able to put in our Maintenance and Capital Improvement Fund. Our goal is to grow this fund so that we have resources to take on the major maintenance items that arise on our large campus.
- Offering support for the first six months of this current fiscal year is ahead of projections.
- *The Cool Million* effort received nearly \$400,000 in gifts in 2019! The two largest *Cool Million* projects have been completed: new HVAC in our school and re-roofing and repairs to the sanctuary.
- Our Mortgage Fund continues to receive generous gifts to erase our mortgage by 2027.
- Our Legacy and Gift Trust Funds received a very large bequest over the last two years that will enable our ministry to reach more people for Christ for years to come!

OFFERING STATEMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

If you would like a copy of your personal 2019 offering statement, for tax purposes or to prayerfully evaluate your giving over the past year, you can find it by logging on to My St. Paul's. You can find a login button on the top of the StPaulMuskego.org home page. Click on "Involvement" on your profile page to find your financial information. Here you will find offering statements for the past three years. You may also contact Church Accountant Becky Wetzel at bwetzel@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 112, to assist.

WINTER RETREATS

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

The following retreats and enrichment are designed to help you fulfill your role within your family, whether you are male or female, single or married. We at St. Paul's are committed to strengthening families. It is one of our core values. If you are interested in attending one of these events and find the cost an obstacle, please contact Pastor Pete. If you are looking for a RAWKs Fund idea, consider sponsoring an individual or couple to attend one of these events to strengthen their Family Church. (At St. Paul's, we encourage families and small groups to have their own RAWKs Fund, a fund to show Random Acts of Worship Kindness.)



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT ONLINE RESOURCE

Grace for Marriage is a collection of online video resources for marriage enrichment. This is a subscription-based program that St. Paul's has purchased access to for you. These excellent videos for you and your spouse can be accessed by going to marriagelab.graceformarriage.com and using login: SPMUSKEGO1234 with password: Muskego_2020 God bless your walk with the Lord as he strengthens your marriage and your faith in him through this program.



MARRIAGE RETREAT

Invest in your most important earthly relationship - your marriage. You and your spouse will grow together in your faith life, enjoy date-night activities and uplifting music, and learn practical, relationship-building skills such as intimacy, structuring priorities, and applying God's covenant to marriage. This retreat is happening at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc, February 28-March 1. For more information and to register, visit www.withthisringretreat.com.



WOMEN'S RETREATS

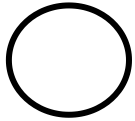
MARCH 13-15 The 20th Pathways to Christ Women's Retreat will be March 13-15 at LaSure's Hall in Oshkosh. Registration and additional information can be found at pathwaystochrist.org.

MARCH 20-22 The Christian Woman Today Retreat, planned by a committee of women from Christ the Lord Lutheran Church in Brookfield, will be held March 20-22 at the Sheraton Hotel in Brookfield. Information on breakout sessions and registration forms is available at ChristianWomanToday.org.

MEN'S RETREAT

The *Men of His Word* conference uses God's Word to empower and equip men to carry out their God-given mission in their homes, churches, communities, and the world. The 10th annual *Men of His Word* conference will be held at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center on Saturday, February 8. Keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and online registration information are available at www.menofhisword.org.





GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. What's your favorite childhood memory?

2. Read Leviticus 20:1-5.
 - a. What do you think would motivate parents to sacrifice their children to Molek?

 - b. Compare those possible motivations to the reasons that a person might consider an abortion today.

 - c. How can you as an individual or a small group be an answer to some of those fears or concerns so that we help shift our culture to an unborn-child-protecting culture?

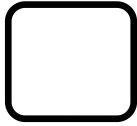
3. Read Luke 18:15-17.
 - a. Why do you think the disciples tried to shoo the children away?

 - b. What could you or your small group do to help small children to grow into a close, loving relationship with their Savior?

4. Read Luke 15:11-24.
 - a. How might this parable encourage a parent who has a wayward son or daughter?

 - b. What can you learn from the father about how to react when we see adult children making ungodly decisions?

5. Close by breaking up into small groups of three or four. If you feel comfortable, share the name of a child for whom you request prayers. Take turns praying for each child that your group partners have mentioned.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Culture Shift: When Children Became People Matthew 19:13-15

1. Infinitely precious people
 - b. Wasn't it always so?
 - Molek: Leviticus 20:1-5
 - *Exposito*
 - Abortion
 - c. What changed?
 - A gift of God, a heritage from the LORD (Genesis 33:5; Psalm 127)
 - A member of the Kingdom and a faith role model (Matthew 19:13-15)
 - Individual Christians (2 Corinthians 5:16-17)
2. Infinitely evil people
 - a. Sinful like their parents (Genesis 5:1-3; Psalm 51:5)
 - b. With a powerful sinful nature (Proverbs 22:15) just like their parents (Psalm 25:6,7)
3. Infinitely redeemed people
 - a. Welcomed by our Savior
 - b. Entrusted to their parents (Proverbs 19:18; Ephesians 6:4)
 - c. Worthy of great sacrifice (Proverbs 13:22)
 - d. Remember the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-24)

My Next Steps to Be a Culture Shifter

- **Dig Deeper:** If you would like to explore the impact of Christianity on our culture's view of children, purchase the book *When Children Became People: The Birth of Childhood in Early Christianity* by O.M. Bakke. This is a revision of his doctoral thesis.
- **Meditate on your part in building Christian culture:** How am I showing that children are precious to me? Where have I stood in judgment over children and ignored my own sin? Where have I failed to consider children precious enough to discipline them in love? Have I given up on a child as a "lost cause"?
- **Be Encouraged:** Children are precious to our Savior. The Holy Spirit can and does work miracles in our children's hearts. Purchase the book *Change of Affection: A Gay Man's Incredible Story of Redemption* by Becket Cook to read a story of the Holy Spirit's mercy and power.