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**PRAYER IS POWERFUL**  
**WHEN GOD GIVES A BLANK CHECK**  
July 8, 9 and 12, 2017

*When God told King Solomon he could ask for anything he wanted, Solomon choose wisdom—  
the ability to discern between right and wrong.*

**BELLS AND WELCOME**

**HYMN 221, vv. 1-3**

**Blessed Jesus, at Your Word**

**BAPTISM** (*Sunday 9:15 am*)

Hymnal page 12

*Reagan Evvie Dassow*

*Daughter of Adam and Kristen (nee Keller) Dassow, born May 17, 2017*

**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.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

**M** Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we have a God who can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

**C** **“With God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).**

**M** He invites to come to him and ask for whatever is on our hearts and minds: *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).* Yet, in spite of such amazing promises, when our hearts are burdened, we often fail to take it to the Lord in prayer. Such little faith! Recognizing our weakness, we come before our merciful Father in heaven and confess our sins.

**C** **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.**

## LORD HAVE MERCY

- M For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



- M For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



- M For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



- M Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



- M The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

## SONG OF PRAISE HYMN 221, v. 4

## Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praise to you and adoration!  
Grant that we your Word may trust, confident of our salvation,  
While we here below must wander, till we sing your praises yonder.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M Let us pray.  
O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants, who come to you in Jesus' name.

- C **Teach us always to ask according to your will, that we may never fail to obtain the blessing you have promised.**

- M Jesus, we pray in your name. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now, and forever.



*God invites us to come to him in prayer, confident that he will hear and answer.*

## 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

Matthew 6:25-34, Bible page 971

*Since we have a heavenly Father who knows all our needs and answers our prayers,  
we have no reason to worry about anything.*

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

## Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer with Meaning

**All** Give us today our daily bread.

**M** What does this mean?

**C** God surely gives daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked, but we pray in this petition that he would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

**M** What, then, is meant by daily bread?

**C** Daily bread includes everything that we need for our bodily welfare, such as food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home, land and cattle, money and goods, a godly spouse, godly children, godly workers, godly and faithful leaders, good government, good weather, peace and order, health, a good name, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

## SERMON

1 Kings 3:5-12, Bible page 333

*Pastor David Kuehl*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

## 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 sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. 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.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

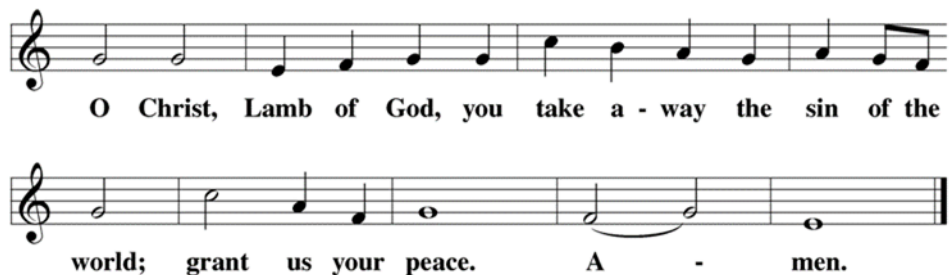
C: A - men.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a short, simple melody with the lyrics 'A - men.' printed below.

## 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.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the third staff.



## DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please see Communion note on page 7.*

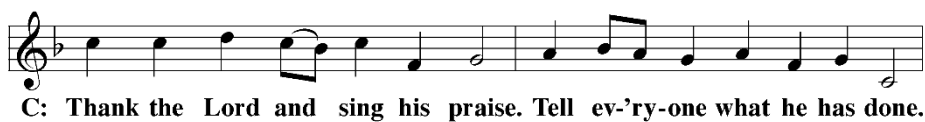
## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 429 310

What God Ordains Is Always Good  
I Come, O Savior, to Your Table



## THANKSGIVING

### THANK THE LORD



M Merciful Father, we give you thanks and praise that you have fed us with the precious body and blood of your dear Son for the forgiveness of our sin. By your grace fill us with the desire and the power to walk worthy of our holy calling and to reflect your glory in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, 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

**ORGANIST** *Darik Mischke*

## 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. "Following the Promise" is currently being held on Tuesday evenings in the Faith Room. Contact Pastor Pete at [ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org) to register.*

*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.*



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of July 10, 2017

<b>MON</b>	10:00 am 5:45 pm	Walking Club (Centennial Gym) Grief Share (Church Library)
<b>TUE</b>	10:00 am	Walking Club (Centennial Gym)
<b>WED</b>	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
<b>THURS</b>	6:30 am 10:00 am 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Centennial Gym) Stoney Creek Bible Study (Stoney Creek Adult Community) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
<b>SAT</b>	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service
<b>SUN</b>	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service Traditional Worship Service Grace Room Bible Study The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service

## AWAKE AND ALIVE – JULY 9

Awake and Alive is a Christian Event ministry for the 18-25-year-old generation in southeast Wisconsin. Awake and Alive exists to encourage a generation in their relationship with Jesus and to bring the healing and hope of Christ to their communities. Sunday, July 9, is the next Awake and Alive event held here at St. Paul's. More information is at [www.awakealive.com](http://www.awakealive.com).

## PASTOR INSTALLATION

Living Water Lutheran Church in Wind Lake is excited to welcome their new pastor! Pastor Aaron Voss will be installed at a special worship service on Sunday, July 16, at 4:00 pm. A meal will be served after the service. All are invited.

## UNDER THE CANOPY HOSTS

July 16 is still available for Under the Canopy. Please contact David Weise at (262) 271-3093 or [dweise@aol.com](mailto:dweise@aol.com) to sign up.

## CHURCH PICNIC – OUTDOOR SERVICE – AUGUST 6

Our annual picnic with outdoor service is coming up on August 6 at 10:30 am (replacing the traditional 9:15 am, The Bridge, and the contemporary services that Sunday). Stay for the picnic afterwards with food, beverages, ice cream, games, and musical entertainment! This year will feature a "surprise" guest appearance by a nationally-known barbershop quartet, the return of the "bags tournament," plus new games for the kids AND adults. (Hint: watch out for flying eggs!) Sign-up sheets are posted in the church lobby. Also see the My St. Paul's needs list or just email Bob Zastrow at [bzastrow@gsgr.com](mailto:bzastrow@gsgr.com) if you'd like to help.



# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home, and Sandra Holtz is at St. Luke's.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: James Beyer, Mary Ann Boldt, Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Jodie Crosby, Sharon Dreyer, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Janelle Gray, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Marvin Pellmann, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Jake Strande.

## SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

If you have small children (4 years old and younger), you might appreciate being able to focus on the sermon without interruption. We have a staffed nursery every Sunday 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 to any need your child has. Ask a worship host for directions. The nursery closes 10 minutes after the service, so please pick your child up promptly.

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

837 attended worship services last week.

## DIVINE CALLS

Pastor Steve Kuehl of Powell, Ohio, continues to deliberate the call to serve as our Resident Missionary.

St. Paul's member and Teacher's Aide Sarah Tonn also continues to deliberate her call to serve as a part-time 3K teacher at St. John's Lutheran Church on Forest Home Avenue.

We ask for the Holy Spirit's guiding hand over Sarah and Pastor Steve as they deliberate where their gifts may be best utilized in God's saving plan.

## PRAYER IS POWERFUL – EASTER EVERY SUNDAY

Wouldn't it be great to see St. Paul's filled with 2071 people every Sunday? That was our Easter attendance. That is the potential number of people we could share the love of Jesus with. Would you join your Ministerial Team in praying for that miracle? Each Monday morning your Ministerial Team is also joining in prayer for the individual needs of God's people here at St. Paul's. We are growing in our own appreciation that "prayer is powerful"!

## CLOTHED IN CHRIST IN BAPTISM

Our first step toward a stronger faith is a one-hour personal visit and study on baptism. Schedule this First Step visit with Pastor Pete by marking the Connection Card.

## GRIEF SHARE

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future. The next GriefShare will be held on July 17 at 5:45 pm, in the church library. Please contact Sharon Klopf at [sklopf@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:sklopf@stpaulmuskego.org) to register.

# GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

## MISSION NEWS FROM HONG KONG

*In the coming months, we will highlight world mission news from the Book of Reports and Memorials prepared for this year's synod convention.*

In the last year the Commission on Inter-Church Relations (CICR) has been working with the South Asian Lutheran Evangelical Mission (SALEM) in Hong Kong on devising and clarifying their "Statement of Faith." In recent months the CICR has witnessed positive developments, which seem to indicate a maturing church body growing in their appreciation of scriptural doctrine and practice. The CICR recommends that WELS declare fellowship with SALEM and sponsor SALEM for associate membership in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference. (*Book of Reports and Memorials* for the 2017 Synod Convention, page 27)

St. Paul's leads our church body in support of mission work around the world! Of every dollar you give to our General Fund, 13% is sent to the synod to support our work together. Praise God that you are part of God's work in Hong Kong!

## FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

This is the perfect place to start if you have never done a bible study. God was planning for you before the creation of the world. God's first promise to you is found in the first chapters of the Bible. In this 13-week study, you will follow that promise through the Bible and see how it impacts your life. This also serves as a preparation-for-membership Bible study. Register on the Connection Card.

## MAKING YOUR BIBLE YOUR BEST FRIEND FOREVER

"The Word of God is living and active" (Hebrews 4:12). We believe that. But how many of us have started to read the Bible and got bogged down in endless lists of names and laws? Do you want help making sense of it all? Could your Bible be your BFF? In the study *Through the Bible in a Year*, you will use your own Bible as your "textbook," so you can highlight and take notes that will help you for a lifetime. Each week you will receive an outline of what is coming next and selected Bible portions to read. The study will be offered on Monday evenings and early Wednesday afternoons. Check the Connection Card for more information.

## AWAKE AND ALIVE – JULY 9

Awake and Alive is a Christian Event ministry for the 18-25-year-old generation in southeast Wisconsin. Sunday, July 9 is the next Awake and Alive event held here at St. Paul's. More information is at [www.awakealive.com](http://www.awakealive.com).

## DEADLY DESIRES: THE NEXT GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

Do you long to offer helpful, spiritual guidance for family members, friends, fellow Christians, or unbelievers who struggle with the homosexual lifestyle? Do you yourself struggle with the temptation of homosexual behavior? Join Mr. Scott Barefoot, President of People of Grace Ministries and a former homosexual, for three Sundays at 9:15 am in the Grace Room starting July 16.

## BACKPACKS FOR KIDS

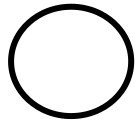
Families of the Muskego Food Pantry, as well as our own Lutheran Elementary School, are in need of a little help providing good, quality backpacks and school supplies for their children this school year. If you would like to help out, please take a tag with a class-specific supply list from the lobby wall. You can expect to spend between \$100 and \$150. Consider joining in with another family or make it a group effort among your small-group Bible study. All filled backpacks need to be brought to the church lobby by August 13. Contact Sally Wallner at [swallner@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:swallner@stpaulmuskego.org) or (414) 422-0320, ext. 294, with questions.

## ST. PAUL'S TEENS

Join the next TUG session of the summer on Sunday, July 23, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Trinity Café. Add the date to your calendar! You won't want to miss out on the fun!

## KIDS CLUB THIS FALL

If being a part of shaping the next generation for the Lord is something you'd enjoy considering, contact Dr. Nelson at [jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org) or mark your interest on the Connection Card. Dr. Nelson looks forward to sharing the joys and rewards of youth ministry with you.



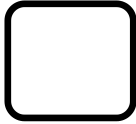
# GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

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1. What kinds of highs and lows did you experience this week? Take a moment to thank God for his joy in the highs and for his strength in the lows.
  
2. Which statement do you identify with the most?:
  - I struggle with believing God *really* wants me to come to him with ALL my requests.
  - I struggle with believing God will *really* answer my prayers.
  - I don't struggle with believing, I struggle with doing - carving out the time to *authentically* talk with God daily.
  
3. Read I Kings 3:5-10. This weekend's message was entitled "*When God Gives Us a Blank Check*," referring to God allowing Solomon to "ask for whatever you want me to give you." What would you ask for if God gave you this blank-check opportunity?
  
4. Why do you suppose God gave Solomon this blank-check opportunity?
  
5. Look specifically at I Kings 3:6-9. What does Solomon's answer reveal about his heart?
  
1. What practices do you (or *could* you) have in place in your life to help you to know your requests line up with God's will for your life?
  
6. The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer is *give us this day our daily bread*. In his explanation of what this means, Luther writes: *God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread **with thanksgiving**.*
  - Why do you suppose it's so hard to remember to thank God for the blessings you receive that you didn't even have to ask for?
  - As a group, brainstorm one or two practical ways you could be reminded of to do this more on a regular basis.



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

## Prayer Is Powerful + When God Gives a Blank Check +

**1 Kings 3:5-12 (Bible page 333)**

Introduction: What do you need?

1. Let's shoot high with humility.

- A. Solomon is the poster child of a believer praying w\_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Solomon's answer to God's open-ended invitation reveals that:
  - He understands the great m\_\_\_\_\_ God has shown his father.
  - He confesses that God has also been m\_\_\_\_\_ to him.
  - He admits his u\_\_\_\_\_ and his need for God's h\_\_\_\_\_.
  - He humbly asks for w\_\_\_\_\_ to be a good and godly king.
- C. As an omniscient (all-knowing) God, God k\_\_\_\_\_ what we need.
- D. God wants us to pray so that he can then a\_\_\_\_\_ our prayers.
- E. Often the things for which we pray are so s\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_.
- F. God wants us to have m\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Let's shoot high with confidence.

- A. Solomon knows that God's promises and power are s\_\_\_\_\_.
- B. In regard to ruling God's people, Solomon admits his d\_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Solomon prays for the wisdom that only G\_\_\_\_\_ can give.
- D. In response to Solomon's prayer God promises great b\_\_\_\_\_.
- E. We know our i\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ: forgiven children of God.
- F. A believer who prays wisely is a believer who prays c\_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 4:16).
- G. This confidence is ours only by f\_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 11:1).
- H. Boldness and confidence in prayer don't come from w\_\_\_\_\_ but from G\_\_\_\_\_.
- I. How amazing that Martin Luther includes no less than 22 necessities in his definition of "daily bread."

Conclusion: Let's follow Jesus' example when we pray and shoot high.

### My Next Steps

- **Read** Psalm 51 to prepare for next week's message on *Prayer Is Powerful: Have Mercy on Me, a Sinner*.
- **Memorize** Hebrews 11:1: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*
- **Make an intentional effort** to pattern your prayers after the petitions that Jesus taught in the Lord's Prayer.