





# WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!

**Thank you for celebrating Christmas with us at St. Paul's.**

St. Paul's is a family of believers in Jesus Christ who love each other and our community. Stop by the Welcome Center in the church entry for information about any of our ministries. An attendant will be there to answer your questions.

**For Little Children:** There is a "mother's room," where parents can go to quiet their children during the worship service. You can hear the service there. This room is to your right as you leave the center doors of the sanctuary.

**Restrooms:** Restrooms are to the left as you leave the sanctuary. There are also handicapped/family restrooms in the west wing of the church (to the right as you leave the sanctuary).

**Special Needs:** Large-print worship folders and hearing assistance are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

## Christian Education

### School of Early Learning

We offer a Christian childcare ministry for children six-weeks old through 3 years old. We will have openings in our infant room beginning in September of 2018. Pregnant? Tell your spouse. Tell your parents. Then call our SOEL Administrator Kim Neubauer at 414-422-0320, ext. 200.

### School Registration for 2018-2019 has Begun

Our 3K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Christian Elementary School is accepting registrations for the next school year. Call our School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons (414-422-0320, ext. 118) for a school tour or indicate interest on the Connection Card. We strive to make our Christian school affordable for every family. We participate in the Milwaukee and Wisconsin Parental Choice program and we offer generous financial aid. Don't let financial concerns keep you from exploring this opportunity to help your child grow in their faith.

### Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

Kids Club is our vibrant ministry for youth on Sundays for age 3 to grade 8. All age levels meet in our school classrooms from 9:15 until 10:15 am. Kids Club resumes on Sunday, January 7. New participants are always welcome. Register any Sunday morning in the Trinity Café, directly across the parking lot from the church.

### Teen Ministry

TUG (Teens Under God) meets on Sunday evenings for Bible study and discussion about the issues that our high school students face. Want more information? Note it on your Connection Card.

### College Students Home on Winter Break

Awake and Alive, a ministry to the 18-25 year old generation, invites you to their 2-day winter conference January 5 and 6 on the campus of Wisconsin Lutheran College. Visit [awakealive.com](http://awakealive.com) for more information.

# CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

GOOD NEWS

December 25, 2017

PRESERVICE

*Rejoice Greatly, Lydia Eiche*

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

GIFT OPENING: For you with generous love from God

HYMN 62, v. 1-3

Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

INVOCATION

M This joyful Christmas Day we begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

M Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins. O Lord, we have not always listened to your Word or treated your good news as something special. We have ignored your Word or have kept it to ourselves. Daily we have failed to obey it. Without your loving voice to guide us, we lose sight of the precious peace that only you can give. We come now before you in the name of Jesus, the promised peace-giver, to ask forgiveness of all 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. Long ago he sent Jesus, his only Son, to earth as a baby in Bethlehem's stable. His perfect life, death, and resurrection removed all sin and brought true peace between God and his people. With great Christmas joy, I, a called servant of Christ, forgive all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**M** In the peace of forgiveness, let us join with the angels and praise the Lord, giving him the glory he so richly deserves.

**C** Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** Let us pray.

O Lord, with generous love you gave us your good news in the form of your Word. It is a treasure revealing both your will for our lives and your numerous gracious deeds.

**C** Thank you for this life-giving gift.

**M** Jesus, Jesus, only Jesus! On Christmas Day we celebrate your birthday, dear Savior! Give us ears that hear and hearts that treasure your saving grace as your Word is read and explained. Through your words prepare our hearts to give answer to the world for the Christmas joy and hope that we share in our daily lives. We pray this in your name, O precious Savior, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,

**C** now and forever. Amen.

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

**Hebrews 1:1-9**, Bible page 1204  
*God has spoken to us through his Son.*

### ANTHEM

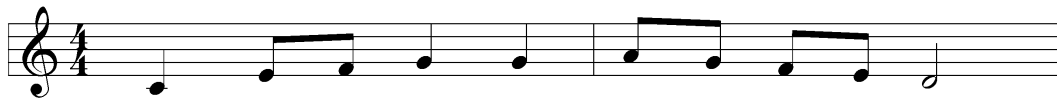
**I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day**, *Called to Sing*

### GOSPEL

**John 1:1-14**, Bible, page 1062  
*Jesus, the Word of God, has come into the world.  
He is the true light giving light to everyone.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

**Peace Came to Earth**



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And  
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The  
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In  
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but  
wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but  
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but  
else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

**Second Article of the Apostle's Creed  
with Luther's Explanation**

**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.**

**What does this mean?**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

**Today Christ is Born, *Brass Ensemble***

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M** What the world needs now is good news from our generous God. The good news is this: Jesus, God's Son, fulfilled the Law completely and paid the punishment for all sin. There is true peace with God. Now all believers have a new and glorious life with him in heaven.

**C** What the world has now is good news from God. The Lord has shown his power and delivered his people from the captivity of sin. Peace and salvation is ours through the sacrificial life and death of Jesus.

M What the world needs now are messengers of the good news. We need faithful believers whose words and actions will proclaim the joyous news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

C **What the world has now is us, you and me, children of God, bought with the blood of Jesus. Open our mouths to speak your saving truths. Bless our hands to reach out with acts of love to our neighbors far and near.**

M Lord, today as we safely gather in your house, our Christmas joy is great. We have “Jesus peace” with you, God. But we live in a world where people are not at peace with each other. Nations are in uproar, neighbors torment each other, and families are broken. We are surrounded by worldly woes—hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters, a world filled with people afflicted with hunger, sickness, grief, and pain. With your Word help us keep a view of the perfect, victorious Christ—from the manger to the cross, from the cross to the empty grave, from the empty grave to the ascended triumphant Savior reigning from on high. With this glorious view of your peace through Christ may we reassure all people, no matter what their struggle, of your love and salvation, of your hope and peace. Today we especially think of...

*Special prayers and intercessions follow.*

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

*A moment for silent prayer.*

M As Isaiah proclaimed so long ago, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good tidings of great joy, who proclaim peace and salvation to all nations” (*Isaiah 52:7*). Lord, we ask you to help us bring every person within our area of influence closer to Christ so they may experience your true peace and love.

C **Lord, help us shout it from the mountain tops, from the hills and from the plains—that all may know the good news of JESUS! Christ was born. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Good news for all!**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and everywhere;**

**Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;**

**And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)**

## THE 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

### PREFACE

- M The Lord be with you.  
C **And also 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 good and right so to do.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PEACE OF THE LORD

- M The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **Amen.**

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please see Communion note on page 9.*

### DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM

**O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is, Called to Sing**  
**He Is Born, Called to Sing**

### DISTRIBUTION HYMN 65

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

### CLOSING PRAYER

- M Let us pray.  
C **My Lord and my God, you are a generous God, loving me with an everlasting love. You provide all that I need at the perfect appointed time. Thank you for your Son, Jesus, and the sure hope of life eternal he won for me. Amen.**

### THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

- M Dear children of God filled with Christmas joy, go in peace. With your beautiful feet walk in harmony with one another and serve the Lord with gladness as you wait for Jesus' return when he will bring you home to eternal life.

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

**POSTLUDE** *March of the Three Kings, Brass Ensemble*

**ORGANIST** *Darik Mischke*

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**December 30, 31, and January 3:** *Regular worship schedule with Holy Communion.*

## 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 with a new class beginning May 23. Register on the back of your Connection Card.*

*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. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform an usher as you approach the rail. The first pews in the left center section are reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail, and we kindly ask those who desire to be communed privately to use these pews.*



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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## WHICH WORSHIP LANGUAGE DO YOU SPEAK?

God's Word remains the same. Whether you speak German, like the founders of St. Paul's 160 years ago, or English or Spanish, God's Word can be translated into that language. At St. Paul's, we recognize that people worship in different "languages" as well. We invite you to experiment to find the worship language that works best for you.

- Our Traditional Services (Saturday @ 5:00 pm, Sunday @ 7:45 and 9:15 am, Wednesday @ 7:00 pm) feature the historic liturgy of the church with music led primarily by organ and piano.
- Our Contemporary Service (Sunday @ 10:45 am) retains much of the historic liturgy with worship, using primarily contemporary Christian songs led by one of our praise ensembles.
- The Bridge (Sunday @ 10:15 am) is held in our Trinity Gym which we transform into a modern worship environment. The setting is casual with the room darkened to allow you to participate or just to listen as you feel comfortable.

While we welcome children in all our services, we do provide childcare at all the Sunday services except the 7:45 am service. You may also wish to enroll your children in Kids Club (3 years old – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) that runs from 9:15 to 10:15 am in our school.

## CHANGE YOUR WORLD: LIVE THE REVOLUTION

When Jesus was born, the Roman Empire enjoyed financial and military success. At the same time, scandals of a sexual nature had become common place in the ruling elite. Positions of power were bought and sold. The world was ripe for revolution.

Over the next three centuries, a revolution did take place... the Christian revolution. The Christian faith became the dominate force in the Roman world by 325 AD.

How did the Christian Church change the world? It wasn't by armed revolt. It wasn't a result of political intrigue. The world was changed by individual Christians living a revolutionary life... a life of purpose and love that amazed the world around them and led many people to know Christ.

As we begin the new year, it is our prayer that we can change the world too! We won't study politics or military tactics. We'll study the revolutionary message... that changed the world of Jesus' day... that has changed us... and that can change our world today.

### LIVE THE REVOLUTION

Look for Hope	January 7	Matthew 2:1-12
Find New Identity	January 14	Galatians 3:26,27
Build a Community	January 21	Hebrews 10:19-24
Live with Purpose	January 28	2 Timothy 1:8-10
Act in Love	February 4	1 John 3:11-20

## **FOLLOWING THE PROMISE: A STUDY OF MAJOR BIBLE THEMES**

*Following the Promise* traces the promise of the Savior from the creation of the world, through Christmas and Easter, to the end of the world. This course will help you understand and treasure the truth that each of us is infinitely precious to God. This also serves as St. Paul's pre-membership study. Pastor Pete Panitzke and Pastor Nathan Strobel will be leading this study beginning Tuesday, January 9, at 7:00 pm. Indicate interest on the Connection Card or call the church office at (414) 422-0320.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

Your overflowing love for our community and those in need has been joyfully evident this Christmas season! 86 Christmas gifts were given to children through the Muskego Food Pantry and 65 Christmas gifts to residents of the Muskego Nursing Home. Our school participated in a Friends of Jesus toy drive for needy children in the Milwaukee area. And many of the classrooms provided gifts to charities such as the Ronald McDonald House, Robyn's Nest, The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive, Lighthouse Youth Center, and Make A Wish, in place of exchanging gifts. Our Friends in Need fund has also provided Christmas food baskets and larger gifts to help others going through difficult times. For these expressions of Christian love and for so many others, we thank you!

## **WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

St. Paul's offers a number of support groups to help you through the difficult times in life:

- Cancer Support Group
- Alzheimer's Support Group
- Grief Support Group
- Divorce Care

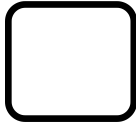
If you would like information about any of these support groups, please note it on the Connection Card or call the church office at (414) 422-0320.

## **LEARN WITH US**

New studies are starting in the new year. You are welcome to join us for any of them.

- **Strong Families - Blessed Lives** – Join Dr. Joel Nelson on Sunday, January 7 at 9:15 am (same time as Kids Club), as we explore the characteristics that make a family health and strong.
- **Financial Peace University** – Beginning Thursday, January 18, at 6:30 pm, we will use Dave Ramsey's course to learn the principals that can lead us to financial peace.
- **The Legacy Journey** – What legacy will you leave the generations after you? This Dave Ramsey course will help individuals with basic estate planning and purposeful living.

For more information, note your interest on the Connection Card or call the church office at (414) 422-0320.



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

## What the World Needs Now Is Good News + Tidings of Comfort and Joy +

**Isaiah 52:7-10, Bible page 735**

Introduction: Does Christmas leave you gasping?

- I. The Lord has laid bare his holy arm to salvage our ruins
  - A. To discover salvation (Jesus, Hebrew: Yeshua) in the Old Testament prophets brings great j\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7).
  - B. The wonder that fills the good news of salvation brings great j\_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:18).
  - C. To see God accomplish salvation in history inspires songs of great j\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7). (Isaiah, Zechariah, Mary, the shepherds and angel hosts, John the Baptist, and Simeon).
  - D. Only ruined (broken) sinners can sing for j\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9).
  - E. How God accomplished our salvation is something to sing about with great j\_\_\_\_\_.
  - F. For Jesus to put his holy arm between us and the deserved punishment for our sin is worth a gasp of j\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 98:1).
  
2. Whoever feeds on the living bread from the “feedbox” will live to rejoice forever.
  - A. Jesus was first displayed to the world in a m\_\_\_\_\_ (feedbox) (Luke 2:16)...
    - not on a royal p\_\_\_\_\_,
    - not in a treasure c\_\_\_\_\_,
    - not in a s\_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Jesus is the “living bread” from heaven (John 6:51).
  - C. Whoever holds Bethlehem’s baby in their arms of f\_\_\_\_\_ will celebrate an eternal Christmas in h\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9).

Conclusion: The almighty God in the flesh of a tiny infant is worth a mighty gasp of joy.