



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 "family 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. Handicapped/family restrooms are to your 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

St. Paul's Child Care Center

We offer a Christian child care program for children six-weeks old through 3 years old. We love serving these little ones for Jesus. We have openings. Tell anyone who's pregnant and in need of child care to call Child Care Center Director Kim Neubauer at 414-422-0320, ext. 200.

School Registration for 2020-21

Our 3K – 8th grade Christian school is accepting registrations for next school year. Call School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons at 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 and excel in their studies.

Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

Kids Club is our Sunday ministry for youth age 3 to grade 6, from 9:15 until 10:15 am. Kids Club resumes on Sunday, January 5. New participants are always welcome. Register any Sunday morning in the Trinity Café, directly across the parking lot from the church.

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 10 and 11. Visit awakealive.com for more information.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

A Child Sleeping in the Night Brings Us Goodness and Light

December 24, 2019

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our worship is an adaptation of the Service of Lessons and Carols traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24 every year. Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after experience as an army chaplain.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

Please stand.

**Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

We invite you to turn towards the back of the church to follow the processional cross as it proceeds to the front of the church.

**He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**But our eyes at last shall see him Through his own redeeming love,
For that child, so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav'n above,
As he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.**

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to return to Bethlehem to witness the miracle that took place there, the Son of God in human flesh and blood, a baby lying in the manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall up to the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Let us hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored.

M We pray.

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this holy night. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

C Glory to God in the highest!

M We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

C Glory to God in the highest!

M We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

C Glory to God in the highest!

M We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

C Glory to God in the highest!

M Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

C Glory to God in the highest!

OFFERING

Our offerings are part of our worship of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. We are committed to using every gift received to share the love and compassion of the Savior with others. Thank you for your gifts. We also ask you to complete the Connection Card and place it in the offering.

THE TRAGIC NEED FOR GOD'S LOVE

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.' ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

In picturesque imagery, this carol sings of the promised Savior who will undo the curse of sin and death.

**Behold, a Branch is growing Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sang, foreknowing; It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little flow'r In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.**

**This flow'r, so small and tender, With fragrance fills the air;
His brightness ends the darkness That kept the earth in fear.
True God and yet true man, He came to save his people
From earth's dark night of sin.**

**O Savior, Child of Mary, Who felt our human woes,
O Savior, King of glory, Who conquered all our foes,
Bring us at last, we pray, To the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.**

LOVE PROMISES A RESCUE

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Both Isaiah's prophecy and this hymn speak of Christ's eternal power and rule, but the last stanza of the hymn emphasizes the wonders of his love.

**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.**

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

LOVE REVEALS UNEXPECTED DETAILS

THIRD LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans^[a] of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” ³Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he will be our peace.

Familiar carols can contain profound realities. In the dark streets of Bethlehem shines “the everlasting light” In this quiet night God’s love provides a most amazing blessing.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

GOD’S PLAN REVEALED TO MARY

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

ANTHEM

LOVE'S BIRTH

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

- M In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.
- C **So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.**
- M While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.
- C **She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.**

Jesus is the eternal God in human flesh and blood. For centuries humankind has wondered how this can be? It is a miracle of God's grace.

What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

- M And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,
- C **"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."**
- M Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
- C **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**

The great joy of Christmas is found in the peace that only a Savior from sin can bring to this world.

**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!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.
- C **On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

- M You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.
- C **Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**
- M You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.
- C **May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**
- M You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.
- C **For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

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.

CANDLE LIGHTING

- M Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**
- M The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
C **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**
- M On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.
C **We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.**
- M For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
C **In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

Please light your candles at this time.

1. Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Stille Nacht! Heil'ge Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!

3. Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

4. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

CLOSING PRAYER

M God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh.

C **Make us a people of this light.**

M Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your light to the waiting world.

C **Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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.



PREACHER *Pastor Peter Panitzke*

PRESIDING MINISTER (2:00, 4:00, 6:00 pm) *Pastor David Kuehl*
(10:00 pm) *Pastor Nate Strobel*

TODAY'S MUSIC (*in order of performance*)

Hallelujah (Light Has Come). 2008. Barlow Family Music, Word Music, LLC.

Tidings of Comfort and Joy, by Audrey Snyder

Coventry Carol, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, and Love Came Down,
arr. by Catherine McMichael

Carol of the Bells/Greensleeves, by Mikola Leontovich, arr. by Larry Clark

Gesu Bambino, by Pietro Yon

O Holy Night, by Adolphe Adam

I Wonder As I Wander, arr. by Karen Buckwalter

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming, arr. by Cynthia Dobrinski



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.

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.

- **Traditional Service** (Saturday @ 5:00 pm, Sunday @ 7:45 and 9:15 am, Wednesday @ 7:00 pm) features the historic liturgy of the church with music led primarily by organ and piano.
- **Contemporary Service** (Sunday @ 10:45 am) retains much of the historic liturgy with worship led by one of our praise bands.
- **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 as you feel comfortable or just listen.

Children are always welcome in all of our services. However, we do provide childcare at all Sunday services except at 7:45 am. Children are also encouraged to attend Kids Club for 3 years old through 6th grade, 9:15 - 10:15 am, in our school.

JOIN US ONLINE

If you can't join us in person, join us online! We livestream The Bridge every Sunday at 10:15 am on the platforms below. Past messages are also available on each platform. Full HD replays of complete services are available on our YouTube channel and websites.



www.thebridgemuskego.org
www.stpaulmuskego.org



The Bridge at St. Paul's



The Bridge Church Muskego

CONTACT OUR MINISTRY STAFF *Office (414) 422-0320*

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