



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

REAL PRESENTS

LOOK FOR THEM

November 28, 29, and December 2, 2020

Children often look for Christmas presents that their parents hide. Let's go looking for the Real Presents of Christmas by seeing the signs of Jesus' return. Receiving the Lord's Supper is part of our looking forward to the Real Presents we will receive when Jesus returns.

FACE MASK PLEASE

In humble service to all in our church community, we are asking all present from age 5 and up to wear a face mask during worship. Face masks are available from the ushers if you are without one. If you are unable to wear a face mask for medical reasons, please do all you can to maintain social distance from others. In Christian love, let us seek to protect the health of others.

BELLS AND WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- M We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.
- C **We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.**
- M We hear his call to watch.
- C **We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**
- M Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

One Advent candle is lit.

OPENING HYMN 1

The Advent of Our King

The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And his true members all unite
With him in heav'n to reign.

**Before the dawning Day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.**

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

C **Amen.**

M As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

C **Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.**

M We keep watch until Jesus comes as we live lives of repentance, savoring anew each day the joy and peace of God's forgiveness.

All **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

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.

All **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

**All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you



C: **And al - so with you.**

M Stir up your power, O Lord, and come.

C **Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening danger of our sins;**

M for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: **A - men.**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 6:1-3, 5-14, 17-22

Noah built an ark. He proclaimed God's righteous anger toward their sin. The people of Noah's day missed these signs of judgment. What signs are we missing today?

When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years."

⁵The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them." ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹This is the account of Noah and his family.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. ¹⁰Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

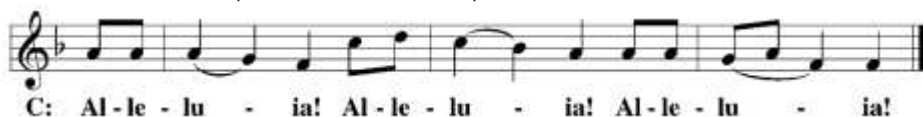
¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹²God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

¹⁷"I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

²²Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says: "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (Revelation 22:20).



The end is coming. Jesus exhorts us to prepare ourselves for that moment. .

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Jesus, your Church with longing eyes
 For your expected coming waits.
 When will the promised light arise
 And glory beam from heaven's gates?

Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,
 Our sins forgive, our foes suppress,
 Our rooted enmity subdue,
 And crown your gospel with success.

Teach us in watchfulness and prayer
 To wait for your appointed hour,
 And fit us by your grace to share
 The triumphs of your conqu'ring pow'r.

SERMON

Mark 13:32-37
 Pastor Nathan Strobel

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.

DISMISSAL OF ONLINE WORSHIPPERS (*Sunday 9:15 am*)

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 un - to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Sanctus

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

OH CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

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.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Oh Christ, Lamb of God'. It consists of five staves of music in a single system, all written on a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and so on. The final line of music ends with a double bar line.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 9.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 15

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

**Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding;
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness;
You are children of the day."**

**Lo, the Lamb, so long-expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n,**

**That, when next he comes with glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He may shield us with his mercy
And with words of love draw near.**

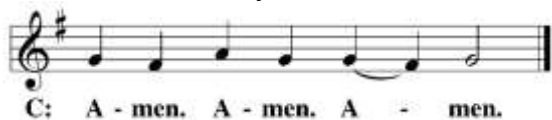
CLOSING PRAYER

C O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



YOUR MINISTERIAL STAFF *Office (414) 422-0320*

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbbonack@stpaulmuskego.org	Worship and Counseling
Mr. Randy Fink	Ext. 120	rfink@stpaulmuskego.org	Church Administrator
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons	Ext. 118	sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org	School Administrator/Principal
Pastor David Kuehl	Ext. 121	dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org	Member Care
Dr. Joel Nelson	Ext. 145	jnelson@stpaulmusekgo.org	Youth and Adult Discipleship
Pastor Peter Panitzke	Ext. 122	ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org	Ministerial Team Leader
Mrs. Heidi Schuh	Ext. 115	hschuh@stpmuskego.org	Asst. Director of Worship Operations
Pastor Nate Strobel	Ext. 293	nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org	Resident Missionary
Mrs. Sally Wallner	Ext. 294	swallner@stpaulmuskego.org	Community Outreach Coordinator
Mr. Mike Westendorf	Ext. 295	mwestendorf@stpmuskego.org	Director of Worship Operations



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.

COMMUNION PROCEDURES

As more people are returning to in-person worship, we are taking steps to shorten the time it takes for the distribution of the Lord's Supper by having two lines for distribution at most of our services.

The church will be split in half. The two sections in front of the pulpit will receive Communion using the table in front of the pulpit. The two sections in front of the lectern will receive Communion using the table in front of the lectern.

Ushers will dismiss communicants from their pew; **however, no one will be dismissed to the center aisle.**

- **The pulpit side** will go to their **left** and use the aisle to the left of their pew to walk forward.
- **The lectern side** will dismiss to their **right** and use the aisle to the right of their pew to walk forward.

Communicants will wait in the aisle, socially distanced as indicated by the carpet circles. They will approach the individual distributing the bread, receiving the bread in cupped hands. They will then move toward the center of the church to the wine trays, pick up their wine and drink it as the distributor says, "Take and drink, the blood of the Lord." All will return to their pew using the center aisle. Following the distribution, the pastor will pronounce the general blessing on the communicants.

Copies of the Personal Preparation for Holy Communion pages from the hymnal are at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

- Wednesday, December 23, at 6:30 pm (No 7:00 pm traditional service this week.)
- Thursday, December 24, at noon, 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 10:00 pm

The Bridge Christmas Eve Services

- Thursday, December 24, at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm

Christmas Day Services

- Friday, December 25, at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of November 30, 2020

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Main Church)
TUE	9:30 am	Ministry Growth Team Meeting
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Main Church)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	1:30 pm	Blood Drive (Grace Room)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Classes (online)
	6:00 pm	Divorce Care (School Classroom 8)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise Bible Study (Online)</i>
WED	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
THURS	10:00 am	Walking Club (Main Church)
	6:30 pm	Pickleball (Trinity Gym)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service

GIFT TREE FOR MUSKEGO RESIDENTS IN NEED IN THE LOBBY

Choose an Ornament from our giving trees or grab a flyer and follow the instructions. Be sure to register your tag! If you don't have time to shop, volunteer shoppers are happy to do the purchasing and wrapping. Simply put a gift in an envelope marked: "Giving Tree" and place it in the offering box. All items must be returned by December 14. Contact Sally Wallner at (414) 218-5197 for more information.

Three Ways to Give – Select your gift based on your budget.

\$10 – 25.00 ~ Grab a flyer in the lobby and bring unwrapped items from the list for Northside Lutheran Ministries, a WELS organization in the inner city. No wrapping and no tag is needed.

\$10 – 50.00 and up ~ Select a gift tag for a St. Paul's family in need. Many of the tags have approximate prices on them for more expensive items. No wrapping, but attach the tag.

\$75 – 100.00 ~Purchase everything on the list for Muskego Health Care Residents. Elderly and disabled. Please wrap them and attach the tag.

TOY DRIVE FOR KIDS IN NEED

Provide a toy for a child in need along with sharing the good news of Jesus with each gift. Simply purchase a gift of \$15.00 or more in value, wrap it, and attach the provided tag available on the table in the Trinity Café.

“HIS NAME IS JESUS”

CELEBRATING ADVENT AT HOME

With the uncertainty that COVID-19 is bringing upon all of us, we decided not to have mid-week Advent services or an in-person Living Nativity. Instead, we are providing an Online Nativity for families and friends to meditate on this Christmas season.

FOUR VIDEO DEVOTIONALS

Our team has been filming four five-minute scenes depicting the Christmas account. They will be combined with a short devotion by one of our pastors, a prayer, and then close with a song. We encourage you to use an Advent wreath in your home, lighting a candle each week, and then watching the devotion with anyone who is in your household. The entire devotion will last about 20 minutes. One will be released each week.

ADVENT 1 – RELEASED NOVEMBER 29

At the beginning of his ministry, Isaiah saw a vision of angels surrounding the throne of God. He was filled with fear. “Woe to me! I am ruined! I am a man of unclean lips.” How can the Holy One of Israel accept a sinner like Isaiah or like us? Isaiah searched his own prophecies to understand this gospel mystery.

ADVENT 2 – RELEASED DECEMBER 6

“It would take an angel...” Wouldn’t that be your thought when your fiancé tells you she is pregnant in a miraculous way? Joseph was forgiving. He didn’t want Mary to suffer harm, but he couldn’t marry her. It would take an angel to change his mind.

ADVENT 3 – RELEASED DECEMBER 13

Isaiah had seen the glory of the Lord. The glory of the Lord appeared again when Isaiah’s prophecies were fulfilled. From the midst of that glory, an angel announced to shepherds that their Savior was born. Join with the shepherds and run to see what the angel announced to them.

ADVENT 4 – RELEASED DECEMBER 20

An angel tells a young girl who is about to become pregnant out of wedlock that she is “highly favored” and that the whole world will call her “blessed.” It seems impossible, but Mary trusts that not one word from God will fail.

CHRISTMAS VIDEO – RELEASED DECEMBER 23

To help you celebrate Christmas, the four devotions will be released as a mini-movie and the newly written “Nativity Song” will be shared to celebrate the story of the birth of our Savior.

UNWRAPPING THE REAL PRESENTS: ADVENT MESSAGE SERIES

The culture and times in which we live make it more and more difficult to know what is real and what is not. Our food is full of synthetic ingredients and artificial flavors. People hide behind facades of pasted on smiles and elegant peaceful homes. Fake news has become a reality that we have to learn to contend with. This time of the year even many of the decorations on our homes and in public spaces are artificial copies of pine, cedar, and mistletoe. It begs the question. Where can we actually find real hope and real joy this Christmas season and beyond?



A Biblical celebration of Christmas is based on realities that have a real impact on our lives—living life in a world in desperate need, heeding the call to honest self-reflection, recognizing the source of true peace and joy in our lives, and worshipping a real baby who is really God himself in human flesh and blood. So often in life we are looking for the wrong kinds of presents. No wonder so many of us are regularly disappointed. The presents we will focus on this Advent season are real presents and are able to do for us what they were meant to accomplish--bestow true hope, peace and confidence.

November 29: Look for Them (Mark 13:32-37)

As a kid, didn't you go looking for Christmas presents that your parents hid? Let's go looking for the Real Presents by seeing the signs of Jesus' return. Receiving the Lord's Supper is part of our looking forward to the real presents we will receive when Jesus returns.

December 6: Prepare for Them (Mark 1:1-8)

"So be good for goodness sake." That's the way the world prepares for Christmas. Try to be good enough to earn real presents. God's answer changes that child's song: "He knows if you've been bad or good, so be honest for your own sake." Prepare for the real presents of Christmas by admitting your sin and need for God's presents in Christ.

December 13: Rejoice in Them (Malachi 4:1-6)

When you found your Christmas presents, did you ever pick them up to see how heavy they were? Maybe shake it to see if you could hear something? That's what Malachi was doing. He knew the real presents of Christmas were going to be great. He rejoiced in anticipation.

December 20: Behold Them (Luke 1:26-38)

Mary was the first to be able to open the real presents of Christmas. Join her in looking at His features: Son of God, eternal King, Holy One. In this Present are found all the real presents of Christmas.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Fred Liermann (hospice care at Autumn Leaves in Franklin), Brittany Michaels (Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina), Audrey Bluhm (St. Luke's), Lois Niermann (Froedtert), and Dorrette Probst (home hospice care). Karl Sandvick has returned home.

FUNERAL

Theresa Schwemmer, born September 26, 1934, entered eternal peace with her Savior on November 24, 2020. Visitation is set for Monday, November 30, at 10:00 am, with the funeral at 11:00 am. May our God of all peace and comfort be with the loved ones of Theresa at this time.

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 74 on Saturday, 71 on Sunday 7:45 am, 88 on Sunday 9:15 am, 95 at The Bridge, and 38 on Sunday 10:45.

MARRIAGE MENTORING

The Counseling Care Center is excited to offer a new Marriage Mentoring program here at St. Paul! Marriage mentoring supports Christ centered marriages through discipleship and fellowship. We do this by pairing *experienced* married couples with *newly* married couples. Through Marriage Mentoring, both couples will learn and grow together by listening, encouraging, and sharing their stories around marriage topics and God's Word.

We are seeking couples who have been married for at least 10 years and who would enjoy hosting a newly married couple. The program will begin early next year. Couples will be asked to commit for 5 months, just once a month, and materials will be provided!

Please reach out to Meta Rosenberg at mtkolander@gmail.com or (920) 284-0658 if you and your spouse are interested in being mentors.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY 2021 PRAYER CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Order your calendar by placing an envelope in the offering plate with your name and "LWMS Calendar" clearly marked on the envelope. The cost is \$10 each. Please make check payable to "LWMS." Order deadline is December 8. Calendars will be available for pick-up at worship services the weekend of December 13. Please contact Nadine Steger, LWMS reporter, at (262) 679-1997 with any questions you may have.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE STUDY

Track the promises of the Savior from the Garden of Eden down to your own heart and life with many opportunities to ask all the questions you may have. Currently offered Tuesdays at 7:00 pm online. Register by contacting Pastor Nate at nstrobelt@stpaulmuskego.org or mark the back of your Connection Card.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OPENING

A position on our ministry support team has become open due to a recent retirement. This is a half-time position including 20 hours per week spread over four days. Responsibilities include administrative support for our pastors, staff ministers, and the rest of the ministry support team. To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to Church Administrator Randy Fink at rfink@stpaulmuskego.org.

DONATE BLOOD ON OUR CAMPUS – DECEMBER 1 OR 17

Thank you to the many who gave blood on our campus recently! Two more opportunities are coming up; Tuesday, December 1, and Tuesday, December 17. With COVID-19 many have not been getting out to donate blood so the need has never been greater. Blood banks are in very short supply. Contact the Red Cross at 1(800) 733-2767 or Versiti Blood Center at 1(877) 232-4376 for more details on how to sign up for those dates. Blood donation happens in the Grace Room.

YOUR GENEROSITY RESULTS IN THANKSGIVING

A WISH LIST ITEM FULFILLED

Two months ago we mentioned Garden Homes' need for a freezer for their Food Pantry. The generous response was enough for the freezer, it's installation, and \$2090 in food. What follows is their thank-you letter:



To the members of St. Paul's, dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus, deeply loved by God our Father and by our Lord Jesus Christ and by all of us at Garden Homes Lutheran,

Thank you SO much for your very generous gift of \$2,090.00 to support our Food Pantry ministry, and for your abounding kindness in installing electrical outlets and purchasing a new freezer to allow us to even better serve the needy people of Milwaukee. Just yesterday, the Lord allowed our Food Pantry to distribute a bag of groceries and frozen meat to over 40 families in our community. When the families say "Thank you," we regularly respond, "It's a gift from the Lord," which often prompts our clients to give thanks and praise to our Lord. We at Garden Homes Lutheran are indebted to all of you—not only for this gift, but also for the numerous ways you have lavishly blessed us with your gifts, service, and prayers over many years. We thank our Great God and Savior for putting it in your hearts to so graciously love us, to care about us, and to so clearly demonstrate the love of Jesus to us.

The Lord bless St. Paul's for your sincere love and for your partnership with us in our Lord's Gospel ministry at Garden Homes Lutheran. May our Lord keep you safe in His loving arms, giving you all you that you need.

Your little brother in our Lord Jesus Christ,

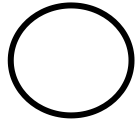
Paul Marquardt
Family Minister at Garden Homes Lutheran Church & School-

AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000 TO FEED THE HUNGRY!

- A St. Paul's family has generously donated **\$3000** to feed those in need through the Muskego Food Pantry and the Garden Homes Lutheran Food Pantry this holiday season.
- St. Paul's Friends in Need Fund **matched the \$3000 gift.**
- St. Paul's Friends in Need Fund will also provide **\$3000** to our Mexican Mission Partner Costa Maya Ministries to help them provide 1600 meals per week to a community devastated because COVID-19 has stopped cruise ship tourists from visiting their city.
- St. Paul's members gave more than **\$1000** in cash donations in addition to all the groceries donated in last week's food drive for the Muskego Food Pantry.
"I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat" (Matthew 25). Your faith in the Savior is evident in this outpouring of love.

DECEMBER FAMILY IN NEED

The year 2020 has been a difficult in many ways. On top of everything else, several of our member families have suffered devastating house fires. Thankfully no one was seriously injured. However, the insurance company for one of these families has not been cooperative. Repairs have not begun; bills continue to mount. If you would like to give a gift to help this family through this difficult time, designate an offering "December Family in Need." Thank you in advance for your loving care.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

Living AWAKE. Read the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy 5. Open up a heartfelt discussion with Jesus on each commandment. Are you “awake” to every sin and the hurt it brings? Or, are you a bit “sleepy” and need his help to “stay awake”?

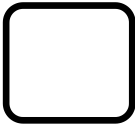
Seeing the SIGNS. Make a list of the “signs of the end” in creation and in the world. Then, make a list of the “gospel activities and victories” you see in your family, in your congregation and church, and in the world. Offer a prayer of thanks for the blessings, and a prayer of intercession for the hurts.

HELP in “staying awake”. Is it true that there are 3 things we do not talk about with family and friends? Religion, sex and politics? While there is some truth as to timing and topics, what topics in your “circles” NEED your godly wisdom?

1. Fresh off of Thanksgiving week and worship, share the highs and the lows in your personal walk with Jesus.
2. Read aloud as a group the sermon text found in Mark 13:32-37. Jesus encourages us to live "AWAKE and ALIVE" as we wait for the last day. What does it mean to you to live *spiritually "awake and alive"*? What does that LOOK like in your life?
3. As we live in the End Times, how do the "signs of the end" affect your mood and your outlook?
4. Read Mark 13:5-10. How is verse 10 the source of JOY for us as we live in these times? How does our God use the signs of the end to aid in gospel preaching and gospel "hearing"?
5. Conventional wisdom says that "there are 3 things one does not talk about with family and friends-- religion, sex and politics." Where is the TRUTH in this? What is a "devil's trap" as we strive to keep each other awake?

Any tips on how to go about having these "touchy conversations"?

6. Close with prayer that includes thanks to God for his gospel activity in the midst of the signs of the end. Seek the wisdom and the strength to help each other "stay awake" through saving faith in Jesus.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

JESUS IS COMING! I WILL LIVE AWAKE AND ALIVE.

Mark 13:32-37

Being a good driver is a matter of being **ready**, of thinking **clearly**...of thinking **ahead**.

1. I Need to Think Clearly

A. LOOK for the Signs of the End

- false m_____
- e_____, f_____
- w_____ and r_____ of war
- p_____ of Christians

B. Look for the JOY

Do we live a _____ of our Creator or a _____ of his saving activity?

APPLICATION Karen Bartes comes to mind...on “the list” on Saints Triumphant Sunday.

2. I Need to Live Purposefully

A. We Have Assigned Tasks 😊

Remember the purpose of our lives: a relationship with the C_____ that spills over into relationships with p_____.

B. We Need to Help Each Other Stay Awake

How in danger ARE we of f_____ a_____ at the wheel of life?

APPLICATION How far did Jesus go to wake us up?

CONCLUSION “The end will come like a thief. Keep watch!”

Next Steps

- **Living AWAKE.** Read the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy 5. Open up a heartfelt discussion with Jesus on each commandment. Are you “awake” to every sin and the hurt it brings? Or, are you a bit “sleepy” and need his help to “stay awake”?
- **Seeing the SIGNS.** Make a list of the “signs of the end” in creation and in the world. Then, make a list of the “gospel activities and victories” you see in your family, in your congregation and church, and in the world. Offer a prayer of thanks for the blessings, and a prayer of intercession for the hurts.
- **HELP in “staying awake”.** Is it true that there are 3 things we do not talk about with family and friends? Religion, sex and politics? While there is some truth as to timing and topics, what topics in your “circles” NEED your godly wisdom?