

FALL WORSHIP TIME RECOMMENDATION

Ideally, worship attendance in St. Paul's sanctuary is at least 200 (50% full). At that attendance level, the church is comfortably full, yet late arrivers can easily find a seat.

Prior to Covid-19, most of our weekly services had attendance below the 50% level. In-person attendance is now about 80% of what it was prior to Covid-19, similar to many other WELS churches. As the result of the lower in-person attendance, none of our traditional services regularly reaches the 50% threshold. That is why we are attempting to "right size" the number of weekly worship opportunities we offer.

Our Summer Trial

This summer we reduced the number of worship services, eliminating the 10:45 am service and moving the other two Sunday traditional services back 15 minutes. The result for the first seven weeks of summer:

- An increase in Saturday evening attendance (123 in 2021 to 133 in 2022)
- An increase in the Sunday early service (85 in 2021 to 125 in 2022)
- An increase in the Sunday second service (158 in 2021 to 189 in 2022)

The reduction of a worship service did not reduce our total average worship attendance. During the summer of 2021, our average total attendance was 650. This summer it has been 700.

Comments Received

Statistics don't tell the whole story. We have received a few requests to return the Sunday 10:45 am contemporary service. A few others have expressed the difficulty of getting up for the early service so they can attend the Grace Room Bible study after the 8:00 am service. These comments are also being considered as the Ministerial Team makes its recommendations to the Ministry Board.

Ministerial Team Recommendation

The Ministry Board, at its August 18 meeting, will make the decision regarding worship times for the fall, beginning the Sunday after Labor Day. The Ministerial Team's current recommendation is:

- Traditional: Thursday at 6:30 pm, Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 8:00 and 9:30 am
- The Bridge: Sunday at 10:30 am
- Kids Club: Sunday 9:30 to 10:30 am; Grace Room Bible study Sunday 9:30 to 10:15 am

Thursday at 6:30 pm: Move the Wednesday service to Thursdays at 6:30 pm and make it the first service of the weekend. This enables us to record the pastor's sermon on the weeks that The Bridge MKE is a video venue. This may also encourage people to attend a Thursday service when they know they will be gone on the weekend. When we have seasonal Wednesday services, such as during Lent, we would not have a Thursday evening service.

Sunday at 8:00 and 9:30 am: This Sunday schedule has brought more balance to our worship attendance. We will occasionally use contemporary music in the 9:30 am service in response to the desire expressed by some for a return of the contemporary service and many responses in the worship survey last summer in favor of blending more contemporary music into our traditional services.

Kids Club and Grace Room Bible Study: Both would begin at 9:30 am. We will shorten the Grace Room Bible study to 45 minutes to make it easier for Kids Club parents and The Bridge worshippers to attend.

The Bridge at 10:30 am: The Bridge would move back 15 minutes so that Kids Club parents can pick up their children at 10:30 am and go right into The Bridge. The pre-service communion would begin at 10:00 am.

Your Feedback

Please take a moment to share your reactions to these recommendations on the Connection Card. Your feedback is important to the Ministerial Team and Ministry Board as we seek to serve God's people.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of August 8, 2022

MON	8:00 am	Safety City (Trinity Café)
	10:00 am	Jeanne Nelson Memorial Service (Main Church)
	6:00 pm	DivorceCare (Hope Room)
TUE	8:00 am	Safety City (Trinity Café)
	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	6:00 pm	Cornhole Tournament (Trinity Gym)
WED	8:00 am	Safety City (Trinity Café)
	8:15 am	Temple Love Fitness Bible Study (Grace Room)
	6:30 pm	Single and Parenting (Trinity Café)
	7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group (Hope Room)
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
THUR	8:00 am	Safety City (Trinity Café)
	9:00 am	Quilting Group Meeting (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	1:30 pm	GriefShare (Hope Room)
	7:00 pm	Campfire Fellowship (Fire Pit behind the School)
FRI	8:00 am	Safety City (Trinity Café)
	6:00 pm	Stephanie Dekorte and Gary Brueggemann Wedding Rehearsal (Grace Downtown)
SAT	8:00 am	God's Guys Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:30 am	Temple Love Fitness Retreat (Trinity Gym)
	2:00 pm	Stephanie Dekorte and Gary Brueggemann Wedding (Grace Downtown)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	8:00 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Class
	9:30 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge

40 Year Celebration

With thankful hearts, we are recognizing Pastor Pete Panitzke and Pastor David Kuehl at all three services on August 7 as they celebrate 40 years of pastoral ministry. To show our gratitude for their service, you can write a note of appreciation (and include a picture or two). A card box is available at the Welcome Center or you can mail cards to the church office. A book will be compiled of the notes and pictures for each of the pastors as a keepsake following the celebration. Cake and juice will also be served after all three services on Sunday.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

Called Home to Heaven

Jeanne C. Nelson, born September 28, 1929, entered eternal peace with her Savior on July 18, 2022. She was a member at St. Paul's for six years before moving to Florida. A memorial service is scheduled for Monday, August 8, at 10:00 am. May our God of all peace and comfort be with Jeanne's loved ones.

Known to Be Hospitalized

Carol Beyer (hospice care at Azura), Ken Laschen (St. Camillus), Richard Stuhr (Heritage Square), Marcia Latham (hospitalized in Appleton), and Annette Dahlke and Paul Lindemann (home hospice care). Sanford Olson and Lee Austad have returned home.

Wedding

Courtney Helm and Brandon Sherman were married on Saturday, August 6, 2022. May the Lord bless and keep Courtney and Brandon as they live in unity with Christ.

Attendance

The following attended last week's services: 151 on Saturday, 105 on Sunday 8:00 am, 226 on Sunday 9:30 am, 189 at The Bridge, and 29 on Wednesday.

DivorceCare Support Group

Divorce is not what God intended when he instituted marriage, but in this sinful world it happens, and it hurts. St. Paul's offers a Christ-centered 14-week program which includes group discussion and Bible study to discover hope and experience healing. A new session begins Monday, August 8, and will meet weekly, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, in the Hope Room. To join, mark your Connection Card or contact Darik Mischke at darik00@yahoo.com.

Single and Parenting

Are you currently facing the challenges of being a single parent? St. Paul's wants to help. Single and Parenting is a support group/program that ministers to the long-lasting, persistent needs of single parents. This group meets weekly on Wednesdays, in the Trinity Café, at 6:30 pm. Please call Vicki Raddant at 414-640-1443 or Karen Boldt at 262-825-3650 with any questions or if you'll need childcare to attend.

School Begins August 24

Our K-8 Lutheran school ministry begins on Tuesday, August 23, with an anticipated enrollment of 247. Our theme this school year is "Christ is our Cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19-22). We ask God to bless the work of our students, families, teachers, and staff this year!

Pre-K Begins after Labor Day

Our 3K and 4K ministry begins August 31, with a projected enrollment of 60 students. There is still room to enroll! We offer a variety of options – half day or all day, the number of days, and wrap-around care. If you would like to consider Christian education for your 3 or 4-year-old, or if you know someone who would still like to enroll their child, contact Principal Seth Fitzsimmons at 414-422-0320, ext. 118.

Child Care Center Hiring

St. Paul's Child Care Center is hiring for their infant room. The first position is Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12:30 – 6:00 pm and the second position is Monday – Friday, 12:30 – 6:00 pm. The start date for both positions is August 31. If interested, please contact Tammy Dockter at dockterta@stpaulmuskego.org.

DandiLion Daze Parade

We are inviting volunteers to join us for the DandiLion Daze Parade on August 28. You will have the opportunity to decorate the float the day prior, walk the parade while handing out candy, and undecorate afterwards. His Way band will be playing music on the float as we drive down Janesville Road. It's an opportunity to openly confess our faith in Jesus. We'll celebrate with a pizza lunch in the Trinity Café afterwards. If interested, please mark your Connection Card or contact Sally Wallner at 414-218-5197 or swallner@stpaulmuskego.org.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

St. Paul's Campfire Fellowship

Bring your family and friends as we gather around the campfire one last time on Thursday, August 11, at 7:00 pm. Please join us for fellowship and smore's at the fire pit behind the school. All you need to bring? Joy and a chair or blanket!

First Annual St. Paul's Coveted Plaid Jacket Tournament

Join us on Sunday, September 18, for a golf tournament at Muskego Lakes Country Club. This golf tournament is all about competitive fun and fellowship. Shotgun start is at 2:00 pm where experienced and novice golfers will be paired up in teams. You must be 16 years old and older to sign up. Cost is \$60 per person for 2 drink tickets, dinner, and prizes, or \$15 per person for dinner only. The event will end in time for the Packer game at 7:20 pm. Register with Cindy Proeber by September 11 at 414-801-2845 or cindy.proeber@accuratediedesign.com.

St. Paul's Provides Training Opportunity to Muskego Police and Fire

Each year the Muskego Police and Fire Department train for an "active shooter" situation. They are always looking for new buildings in which to train. This year they have asked to train in the St. Paul's School building the evenings of Tuesday – Thursday, August 16-18, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Officers, firefighters, and role players will begin to assemble about 5:30 those evenings. No other activities are allowed in the school building those evenings. This does not affect events planned at the church. If you have questions, contact Pastor Pete at ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org. As police chaplain he will be present for these training activities.

Women's Wellness Retreat: A Day for Women to Be Encouraged in Health – Mind, Body, and Soul

Live, upbeat music, catered lunch, powerful presentations on mental, relational, and physical health by professionals, celebrating sisterhood, growth in godly confidence, and an optional Barre workout to end the uplifting day.

Saturday, August 13, 10:30 am - 3:00 pm. Doors open at 9:30 am for check-in and visiting.

All women ages 14 and up are welcome. Invite your moms, daughters, sisters, friends, and neighbors.

Scan the QR code and purchase tickets by August 7.



Support of The Bridge MKE – Our Satellite Site

Our satellite site is at 3203 South 76th Street, just south of Oklahoma Avenue. Our campus planter, Dave Panitzke, is working with the rest of the Ministerial Team and about 40 people from St. Paul's and surrounding WELS congregations who have expressed interest in being part of our Bridge MKE launch team. We will soon begin monthly Sunday afternoon worship to build up our Launch Team and give us practice worshipping in this new location. When we have a large enough core group and have done sufficient publicity, we will begin weekly Sunday morning worship at 10:30 am. If you would be interested in helping with this new site, permanently or for just a time, please reach out to Dave at panitzke@gmail.com or 865-236-7333. If you would like to give a special gift to help this ministry get started, here are our current "Wish List" items:

- iMac for worship: \$2000
- Chairs for the sanctuary (similar to those used in The Bridge): \$4,000
- High top tables and Kids Club tables: \$2000
- TV monitor and wall mount: \$600
- Flooring: First estimate was \$10,000 to \$20,000 (depending on amount of work done)

You may write a check, clearly labeling the gift "Wish List—Bridge MKE" or give online at StPaulMuskego.org or use the St. Paul's Muskego app. Find "Wish List" fund and on the memo line note Bridge MKE.