

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED

Roger Scholbe (Heritage Muskego), Gloria Fieldstad (LindenGrove New Berlin), Donna Dobrzynski and Robert Maas (Waukesha Memorial). Leon Kruschke and Ed Tonn have been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 35 on Thursday, 94 on Saturday, 267 on Sunday 8:00 am, 166 on Sunday 9:30 am, 198 at The Bridge, and 68 at The Bridge MKE.

A PLACE TO START: FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE CLASS

Pastor Nate Strobel is leading a new session of our new member Bible study—*Following the Promise*— on Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:15 pm, both in person and online. To join, contact Pastor Nate at 414-426-8236. Pastor Pete Panitzke will also be starting a *Following the Promise* study on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at The Bridge MKE and Wednesdays at 1:00 pm at The Bridge MKE. If you know someone in the area of 76th and Oklahoma who would like to attend, let Pastor Pete know at 414-350-1436.

GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY – SUNDAYS AT 9:35 AM

Join Dr. Michael Berg, a professor of theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College, for the current Grace Room Bible Study as he leads a study based on his book, *The Baptismal Life*. This study will run through January 26. Copies of his book will be available for purchase.

“IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL” FIVE WEEK BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 PM, BEGINNING JANUARY 29 IN THE GRACE ROOM

This study will help us understand the world in which Paul carried out his mission work to better prepare us for our own mission fields. The study will follow the path of the trip that Pastor Panitzke is planning for September 2025. It will include map work and pictures to put us into Paul's ministry.

- Philippi and Thessalonica
- Ephesus and Patmos and Crete
- Athens
- Corinth
- Istanbul (Constantinople – the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire for 1000 years)

“IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL” PILGRIMAGE – SEPTEMBER 15-27, 2025

Brochures are available in the Welcome Center or contact Pastor Panitzke at ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 122.

GET INVOLVED – ST. PAUL'S MUSIC GROUPS

Teens and adults are invited to join our adult choir, handbells, strings, brass, and/or woodwind ensembles. Rehearsals for the spring season are starting soon, and our groups would be so excited to have you join. Mark your Connection Card or contact Heidi Schuh at 414-530-4284 or hschuh@stpmuskego.org for more information.

THANK YOU FROM GARDEN HOMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

During 2024, St. Paul's "Friends in Need" fund provided \$2,800 for the food pantry at Garden Homes Lutheran Church, 2450 W. Roosevelt Drive, Milwaukee. In a recent letter, they wrote: "We are incredibly grateful for your love in helping Garden Homes outreach efforts... Our much needed food pantry does exceptional work in fulfilling the needs of the local residents. By God's grace, some of the recipients have come back to worship with us."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

GRACE ROOM MISSION PRESENTATION – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AT 9:35 AM

Jake Wassermann will give a mission presentation in place of the Grace Room Bible study on February 2. Jake serves as a missionary with the Friends Network (Friendsnet.org) in Manila, Philippines. The Friends Network was formerly called “Friends of China.” Friends Network is a WELS-affiliated ministry that has trained and supported over 340 lay missionaries since 2000. These missionaries work in partnership with WELS and ELS world missionaries and national churches in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

LADIES AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

On Wednesday, February 5, the Ladies Afternoon Fellowship will have a Zoom presentation by Missionary John Holtz on his service to the Native American Apache Mission. The congregation is invited to attend his presentation, which will begin at 12:30 pm in the Grace Room.

OWLS TO HOST JOHN QUINCY ADAMS PRESENTATION

The St. Paul’s Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors invite you to their meeting on February 12, at 12:00 pm, in the Grace Room. Bring a lunch and enjoy a fascinating presentation by Tim Mutterer about John Quincy Adams, our 6th President, and his wife of 50 years, Louisa Johnson Adams. Tim will detail their interesting marriage and careers. For more information, please call Charlene Pingel at 262-490-2579.

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Join us in the Grace room on Sunday, February 23, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, to explore Biblical encouragement and practical wisdom applications to keep your marriage thriving. Scan the QR code to register.



PICKLEBALL OPEN GYM AT ST. PAUL’S

The league on Thursdays is full, but there are some opportunities to play on Open Gym nights, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Please keep the schedule below in mind so you can play Pickleball right at St. Paul’s in the Trinity Gym. Cost is \$5 (payable at the door). If you have any questions, contact Cindy Proeber at 414-801-2845.

- Wednesday, February 5
- Wednesday, February 19
- Wednesday, March 5
- Wednesday, March 19
- Wednesday, April 2
- Wednesday, April 16

LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH CENTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lighthouse Youth Center is a free after-school program for youth ages 10-18 that aims to be a beacon for Christ to the youth of the community. Every week, LYC provides a Friday Night Dinner to all youth who attend with the help of volunteers who provide and serve the meal. There are many openings at all five locations. Scan the QR code for more information and to sign up.



20TH ANNUAL JIM HAAG MEMORIAL BOWLING FUNDRAISER



On Saturday, February 1, Lighthouse Youth Center is holding its 20th Annual Jim Haag Memorial Bowling Fundraiser at Riviera Lanes. This event includes 3 games of bowling, food, raffles, and a silent auction. You can also compete for prizes for top male and female bowler and top team. Scan the QR code to register. If you have any questions, contact Abby Rasmussen at abby.rasmussen@lighthouseyouthcenter.com.

ICE FISHING INVITATION

Paul and Tony Velardo are inviting St. Paul’s members to an ice fishing event on Sunday, February 2, at 12:00 pm, on Big Muskego Lake. There will be a power auger and shanties for use, and they will be grilling brats. It’s a great opportunity to bring the whole family for some fun and to catch a few fish. Contact Paul at 262-748-4552 for more details and to sign up.

ST. PAUL'S YOUTH NEWS

HELPING PARENTS BUILD STRONG CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

Our Lutheran Elementary School enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year begins this week. Schedule a tour with Principal Fitzsimmons at sfittzsimmons@stpmuskego.org. Invite your friends, neighbors and family members to check out our school. By our participation in the Parental Choice programs and generous tuition assistance, we strive to make Christian education accessible to every member of our St. Paul's/Bridge family.

CALL FOR 4K TEACHER

Mrs. Lori Andrews has stepped down from teaching 4K here at St. Paul's due to back issues. She hopes to pursue an advanced degree in early childhood education. We thank her for serving our students and families here at St. Paul's. Our School Ministry Action Team and Ministry Board plan to call a 4K teacher for next school year on January 27.

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER NEWS

Tammy Dockter, our assistant director, plans to retire this summer. We are seeking a replacement to serve as lead teacher / assistant director. If you or someone you know would be interested, contact Principal Fitzsimmons at sfittzsimmons@stpmuskego.org. There are also openings for substitute teachers (paid) and substitute lunch volunteers. If interested, email Tammy Dockter at dockterta@stpmuskego.org.

SECONDARY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TUITION ASSISTANCE

Thank you to those who have contributed to the Christian Education Tuition Assistance fund. St. Paul's members attending Wisconsin Lutheran High School or Luther Preparatory School for the 2025-26 school year are encouraged to apply for grants from this fund. Grants are awarded primarily according to financial need. Applications are available in the school office or via email. Application deadline is March 15, 2025. Families must reapply each year.

LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL K-8 TUITION ASSISTANCE AND PRE-K TUITION ASSISTANCE

Thank you to those who have contributed to the Christian Education Tuition Assistance fund. Applications for tuition assistance for the 2025-26 school year need to be submitted by March 1, 2025. Families must reapply each year. The application for tuition assistance should be completed online through the TADS website (a link for TADS can be found on the school website www.stpmuskego.org).

TEEN MINISTRY EVENTS

- **WELS Youth Night:** Sunday, January 26, from 5:45 to 8:00 pm at Wisconsin Lutheran College. The next one will be Sunday, April 6.
- **Online WELS Teen Bible Study:** This started in the last few months to connect with teens online across the synod. It is a unique opportunity to dive deeper into God's Word as well as meet some new people. There are about 80-100 people who join on average. The next date is February 16 at 6:00 pm (Central). Google "[WELS National Teen Bible Study](#)" to find the link to register or learn the next topic.
- **Victory of the Lamb Teen Night:** Every Sunday from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Their next guest speakers are Terry and Mary Schultz on February 2 speaking about their mission work to unreached people in the jungle and Dr. Rhoda Wolle on February 23, speaking about her ministry on five continents as part of Kingdom Workers.

If you would like more information about these and other youth ministry opportunities, contact Youth Minister Katie Klement at kklement@stpmuskego.org or 469-318-9464.



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.

THE NEXT STEP

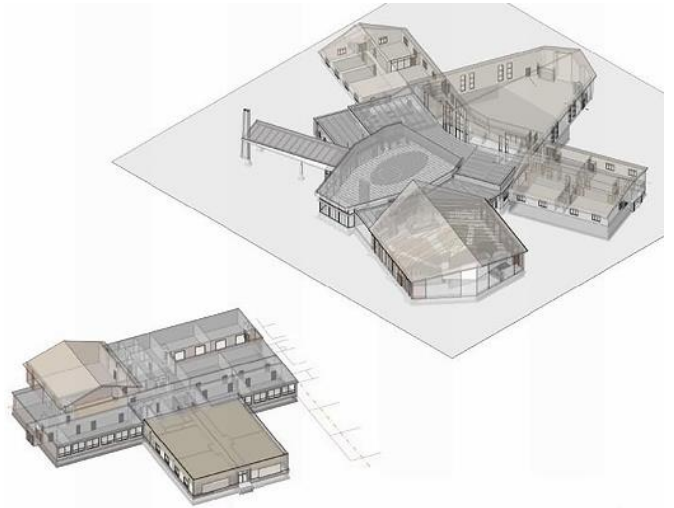
THE NEXT STEP

It is exciting to see our congregation take the next step to enhance our gospel ministry!

When the church addition is complete sometime early in 2026, we will welcome members and guests into a spacious gathering area, enjoy being “one family” before and after our traditional and contemporary services, and have our children attending Kids Club with us in the same building as worship and Bible study. The Bridge will have a permanent home, a space available for many other uses throughout the week.

Our “next step” at school will be starting shortly with the addition of four classrooms. We hope to dedicate the school addition this summer and use these new rooms beginning in August 2025.

Thank you for your generous gifts to the Building Fund. We have received nearly \$2.2 million in Building Fund gifts. Our goal is a \$3 million downpayment by this fall on our \$10 million expansion.



YOUR NEXT STEP – THE CHRISTIAN LIFE STAIRWAY

In our Because iT Matters program, our first goal was that each of us take a step up in our spiritual growth. What is your next step?

1. **The cross matters:** I have a personal understanding of my sin and that that Jesus died for me. I make a **commitment to personal spiritual growth and weekly worship.**
2. **The partnership matters:** I understand the importance of my church friends to help me grow in my faith. I make a **commitment to participate in a large or small group Bible study.**
3. **The mission matters:** I understand my primary purpose is to share the good news of Jesus. I make a **commitment to live and speak in a way that gives honor to Jesus and draws people closer to him.**
4. **My surrender matters:** I understand that my life is no longer my own. My comfort and my desires are not most important. I make a **commitment to pray, “Father, not my will, but yours be done.”**
5. **My legacy matters:** I understand that I can be a blessing to generations to come. I make a **commitment to invest in the next generation** with my time, my prayers, and my financial resources.



YOUR NEXT STEP – THE GENEROSITY STAIRWAY

When we grow in faith, we also desire to “excel in the grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). What is your next step to grow in giving? Each is a victory of God’s grace!

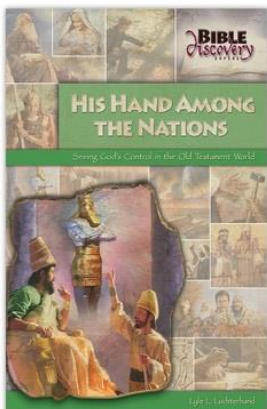
1. **First-Time Giver:** The cross matters to you personally. You give for the first time.
2. **Consistent Giver:** Our partnership in faith matters to you. As a partner in our ministry, you start to give regularly, perhaps make a recurring online gift at StPaulMuskego.org/Give/.
3. **Intentional Giver:** The mission matters so much to you that you challenge yourself to grow in giving, striving for the tithe (10% of your income) or more.
4. **Surrendered Giver:** Your focus changes from what you are giving to what you are not giving. You ask, “What is holding me back from giving more?” Giving an appreciated asset may be your next step to “excel in the grace of giving.” You can speak to our Church Administrator Randy Fink (414-422-0320, ext. 120) for assistance.
5. **Legacy Giver:** Your faith in Jesus leads you to make financial decisions that can impact generations to come. Planning a once-in-a-lifetime gift or updating your estate plan to increase your giving to the Lord’s work may be your next step. Schedule an appointment with our Estate Planning Coach Craig Mellendorf at StPaulMuskego.org/estate-planning/.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of January 27, 2025

MON	9:40 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	6:00 pm	Dartball League (The Bridge MKE)
	6:30 pm	String Ensemble Rehearsal (Church Basement)
TUE	9:40 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	4:30 pm	Public School Catechism
	6:00 pm	Adult Handbell Rehearsal (Main Church)
	7:00 pm	Anxiety and Depression Support Group (Hope Room)
	7:00 pm	Following the Promise Bible Class (School Rm #8)
	7:30 pm	Woodwind Ensemble Rehearsal (Church Basement)
WED	9:45 am	Reading Buddies (Trinity Café)
	6:30 pm	"In the Footsteps of Paul" Bible Study (Grace Room)
THUR	9:00 am	Full Armor of God Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:30 am	Thursday Ladies Bible Study (Stoney Creek)
	9:40 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	10:00 am	Small Group Communion (Main Church)
	6:30 pm	Traditional Worship Service
FRI	8:15 am	School Chapel (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am	God's Guys Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	9:45 am	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
SUN	8:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Fix Your Eyes on Jesus Bible Study (School Rm #9)
	9:30 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:30 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:30 am	Kids Club
	10:00 am	The Bridge and The Bridge MKE Communion
	10:30 am	The Bridge and The Bridge MKE



CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY KIOSK IN THE CHURCH LOBBY

The beginning of a new year is a good time to start on a Bible reading plan. Featured on the library kiosk are NPH's Bible Discovery and People's Bible books which provide a background resource to help you read and understand the text of Scripture. *His Hand Among the Nations* examines how God masterfully guided and shaped world events of the O.T. to correlate with his plan of redemption.