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#WHATJESUSSAID (ON TRUTH AND LOVE)

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

February 4, 5, and 8, 2017

The guiding principle for any healthy conversation is Jesus' command to approach a person in love, with their emotional and eternal well-being in mind.

PRE-SERVICE HYMN SING

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 373, vv. 1-4

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

M The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, God's thoughts are not our thoughts. Neither are our ways his ways. As Jesus hung from the cross, he asked his Father to forgive the individuals who had unjustly hung him there.

C **Jesus calls us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us.**

M Yet when others hurt us, our natural reaction is to lash out in anger, to plot revenge, to carry a grudge. Our ways are so far from God's way. How thankful we are that this is true! In Christ, God is a God of mercy and unending grace. Let us, therefore, come before him in honesty, acknowledge the truth of our sin, and ask God to forgive us.

All **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 and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Oh, may our tongues forever bless And honor you alone,
And may we in our lives express The image of your own!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, you are a God of mercy and grace. You will not always accuse. Nor will you harbor your anger forever.
- C **You do not treat us as we deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**
- M Give us hearts like yours, dear Lord, that care more deeply for the eternal welfare of those around us than for our own feelings and desire for justice.
- C **Teach us to see all people through your eyes.**
- M We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



FIRST LESSON

Romans 13:8-14, Bible page 1138

The one debt we always owe is the continuing debt to love one another.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 89, Hymnal page 98

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever.

SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:11-18, Bible page 1230

We are called to love not with words or speech, but with actions and in truth.

HYMN OF THE DAY 459

O God, My Faithful God

SERMON

Matthew 5:43-48; Bible page 970

Pastor Peter Panitzke

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Sunday*)

Shine, Jesus, Shine, Bruce and Betty Marggraf

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for reconciling us to yourself through the sufferings and death of your dear Son.

C **Through him we have confidence to enter your presence and to bring you our prayers and petitions.**

M Help us show love and compassion for all who are in need. Bestow on the nations of the earth the knowledge of your mercy, that they may turn to you, the only God, and find salvation in you.

C **Give a special measure of your power to those who are sorrowful or mourning, to those who are in pain or sickness, to those who may be in temptation or peril, that they may receive your blessed aid.**

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M Help us patiently endure any chastening and afflictions you permit to come into our lives,
C **knowing that you are using them in love to prepare us for that joyful communion with you, which is ours for all eternity.**

M Accept our prayers and intercessions, and provide for all our needs not because we are worthy but for the sake of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

M O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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

PRESIDING MINISTER (Sunday) *Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Kathy Bremer*



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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of February 6, 2017

MON	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) <i>The Story Bible Study</i> (Grace Room)
TUE	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Ministerial Team Meeting Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Handbell Rehearsal <i>Following the Promise Bible Study</i> (Faith Room) Volleyball League
WED	4:30 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes Traditional Worship Service Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS		No Pre-K or Elementary School – Teachers’ Conference
	6:30 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) <i>Financial Peace University</i> (Grace Room) Pickleball League (Trinity Gym) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI		No Pre-K or Elementary School – Teachers’ Conference
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men’s Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Grace Room Bible Study Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion

Multimedia Ministry



- **TV:** *Time of Grace*, Sundays at 5:30 am on UPtv, 7:00 am on WBME, and 10:30 am on WDJT. Thursdays at 3:30 pm on TBN. For a complete broadcast schedule, visit timeofgrace.org/waystowatch or call the *Time of Grace* office at (800) 661-3311.
 - **Radio:** Lutheran Radio Church Service, Sundays at 7:00 am on JOY1340 AM
 - **Online:** Podcast and video sermons at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org
 - **Live Streaming:** The Bridge, Sundays at 10:15 am at www.thebridgemuskego.org
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ST. PAUL'S NEWS

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home, Ruth Kurth at Brenwood Park, and Georgette Meyer at Layton Terrace. Dorothy Hahn is rehabbing at Golden Living, Richard Kamnetz at Tudor Oaks, and Norman Miller at Mukwonago Linden Grove. Tom O'Laughlin is at Waukesha Memorial, Susan Schultz at University Hospital in Madison, Donald Storm at St. Luke's, and Payson Vahovick at Children's. Joanne Moths has transferred to Park Hills West in Hales Corners.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Jodie Crosby, Sharon Dreyer, Rick Drobka, Shelly Eggert, Namine Eiche, Monica Gawlik, Daniel Holtz, Dan Italiano, Dawn Jahns, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, and Jeanne Steinbrecher.

ATTENDANCE

1135 attended last week's worship services.

QUARTERLY MESSENGER

Our St. Paul's quarterly newsletter *The Messenger* will be distributed after the worship service today. This newsletter is full of information and victory stories in our ministry from the past few months, as well as plans to move our ministry forward at St. Paul's for the next fiscal year.

DIVINE CALLS EXTENDED

On Thursday, January 26, the Ministry Board extended a one-year divine call to Mrs. Sara Goelz to continue her service as first grade teacher half-time (afternoons) in our Lutheran Elementary School for the 2017/2018 school year. Mrs. Goelz is currently serving in this role for the 2016/2017 school year.

The Ministry Board also issued a divine call to St. Paul's member, Mr. Randy Fink, to serve as our church administrator, beginning July of 2017. Randy previously served as St. Paul's business administrator and is currently the director of operations at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. More information about this call is in *The Messenger*.

Please keep Sara and Randy in your prayers as they consider where best to serve in God's kingdom.

A letter to the congregation follows from Mr. Randy Fink:

January 28, 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Paul's,

It is both an honor and a privilege to have received your divine call to serve as a staff minister in the new church administrator role at our congregation. The information that I was provided for this position shares how it will play an important role in the congregation's focus on sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is very evident in our vision statement; "By every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ." I am anxious to learn more about the position to which you have called me by corresponding with our pastors, staff minister, school administrator, and leaders in the days and weeks ahead. Your comments to me are most welcome regarding this call. Please keep me and my family in your prayers as I deliberate the two calls that I now hold; the one to serve as your church administrator and the other in which I serve as the director of operations at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. I will continue to pray for God's guidance to help me determine where I might best serve the Kingdom.

Your brother in Christ,

Randel R. Fink

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

This series *On Truth and Love* lays the foundation for good, solid communication. The series will address the issues that invariably sidetrack Christians when they seek to have healthy conversations about controversial topics. There is a lot of misunderstanding both inside and outside the church that only healthy conversations can begin to address.



“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. ‘Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.’ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” 1 Peter 3:14-16

February 5	Love Your Enemies	Matthew 5:43-48
February 12	Do Not Judge	Matthew 7:1-5
February 19	It’s Not the Healthy that Need a Doctor, But the Sick	Matthew 9:9-13
February 26	I Did Not Come to Bring Peace, But a Sword	Matthew 10:32-39

MARCH 1 – ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time of repentance and reflection during the 6 weeks leading up to Easter. Join us for our midweek Lenten services at 3:30 and 7:00 pm in the sanctuary for our message series *Hidden Glory*. Jesus’ glory is often a hidden glory – hidden in his lowly life, hidden in his severe suffering, hidden in his dark death... During the Wednesdays of lent we will be led to marvel at how Jesus revealed his hidden glory as he carried our sin to the cross for our full and forever salvation.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Our soup suppers will begin again on Ash Wednesday, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the Grace Room. The Wednesdays of March 8, 29, and April 5 are still available to host. This is a great opportunity for groups and/or organizations to gain exposure and at the same time serve fellow Christians. A free will offering is gathered at the soup supper to help defray the cost of the food and/or a benefit of your choosing. Please contact Tammy Miller at (414) 422-0320, ext. 111 or tmiller@stpaulmuskego.org or for more information.

A WEDNESDAY EXPERIMENT

This coming Wednesday, the 7:00 pm service will be moved into the Grace Room. We believe the Grace Room provides a more intimate setting for the smaller number of people who attend the Wednesday service and will be more conducive to joyful worship. We will shorten the service slightly, recognizing that our attention spans (and our energy levels) are likely lower in the evening. Come and join the experiment!

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

If you have small children, you might appreciate being able to focus on the sermon without interruption. We have a staffed nursery every Sunday during the 9:15 and 10:45 am services in the east wing of the church. A silent pager system allows childcare providers to alert you to any need your child has. Ask a worship host for directions.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE STUDY

Following the Promise is a Bible introduction study of the truths of Christianity and prepares an individual for membership at St. Paul's. It is a great place to have your questions answered! Pastor Pete Panitzke leads the class on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the Faith Room. Register by contacting him at (414) 350-1436 or ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org.

NEW GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY

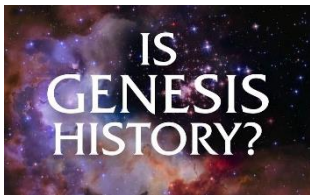
Are you gifted to serve? Our individual and collective vision at St Paul's is "By every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ." Our congregation gives us a wide variety of opportunities to help us accomplish this. However, we at times may feel that we are not qualified or able to carry out this mission of the church. Join St. Paul's member and former pastor, Dan Kolosovsky, to see how God the Holy Spirit has equipped us with many spiritual gifts so that each of us can successfully preach the gospel in a seemingly endless variety of God-pleasing ways. Join the study Sundays, February 12 through April 9, at 9:15 am in the Grace Room.

BIBLE STUDY FOR PARENTS BEGINS

The Hurried Family: Help for the Hurried Home

In this age of stress and crazy schedules, you can never have enough help and hope amidst the hurry. This Parents Club, DVD-based study, led by Randy Fink, Director of Operations at Wisconsin Lutheran High School, and his wife, Lori, will empower you and your family with confidence and practical, biblical, stress-saving skills as you take the off-ramp to sanity, peace, and family harmony. Join us in the school Computer Lab on Sundays at 9:15 am through March 26.

IS GENESIS HISTORY?



Is Genesis History? is coming to The Ridge Cinema for a one-night event on Thursday, February 23, at 7:00 pm. Dr. Del Tacket, creator of *The Truth Project*, brings together scientists and scholars to look at the creation of the world as it intersects with the history recorded in Genesis. Challenge the way you see the world and shine new light on the origins of the world as you explore two competing views that lead to one compelling truth.

TEENS UNDER GOD

What's next for TUG? February 12 – movies and games at the MUG; February 26 – service project to help WELS Prison Ministry. Stay tuned - get excited!

15 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHINA

The Chinese New Year and Spring Festival run from January 28 through February 11. The Chinese outreach ministry 316NOW invites you to join in 15 days of prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to bring the gospel to more souls in China. There are 1.3 billion people in China who don't know Christ. Find more information at 316NOW.org/15-days-of-prayer. 316NOW is a ministry carried out by members of our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

You Are Invited!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT



**Saturday, February 25, 6:30-9:00 pm.
Trinity Gym and Café.**

PLEASE NOTE: Children not allowed! ☺

If you are one of the hundreds of teen and adult volunteers that have assisted in any of St. Paul's on-or-off-campus ministry or outreach activities, in any capacity and length of time, **YOU ARE INVITED** (along with your spouse/another guest whether or not he/she is also a volunteer).

- Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres
- Soft and not-so-soft beverages
- Delicious desserts
- Door prizes
- Special thank-you presentation by the called and hired staff
- Performance by **COMEDY SPORTZ**



Please come, relax, have a great time, and walk away feeling truly appreciated by St. Paul's for all you have done to help our ministry.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY FEBRUARY 15. Complete the short online registration form on the St. Paul's website homepage, fill out a Connection Card, sign up on the sheets at the church/Bridge welcome areas, or contact Dr. Nelson (jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org, 414-422-0320, ext. 145).



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER

Our annual congregational chicken dinner is Sunday, February 19, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Centennial Gym. Enjoy camaraderie and a great meal together as a St. Paul's family. Many volunteer opportunities are available to help make this event a success. Sign-up today in the church lobby.

TESS CORNERS FIRE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATION – OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

On Monday, February 27, the Tess Corners Fire Department will be using our Trinity Gym for a group photo. We'd like to show a little love to these men and women who serve our community by providing goody bags with homemade cookies. If you would like to provide cookies or help assemble the goody bags, contact Sally Wallner at (414) 218-5197 or swallner@stpaulmuskego.org.



A NEW HIGH SCHOOL ON THE HORIZON?

The Wisconsin Lutheran High School Conference delegates heard about plans to begin a new Lutheran high school in Milwaukee. The proposed goal: "By fall of 2018, open another high quality Lutheran high school, offering a Christ-centered education for students seeking a secondary continuation of their Lutheran K-8 spiritual/academic development."

President Ken Fisher reports:

"Mr. Kevin Festerling, who is serving as the new WLHS School Developer... estimates that in the next five years there is a potential new set of 1250 8th graders looking for a Lutheran High School voucher seat from our WELS schools alone.

"The [Seat Expansion Task Force] has seemed to settle on the concept of an urban high school for young men. The working name is Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School. It would be an all-boys high school with special emphasis in developing...

- A love for their Savior and each other
- Student voice
- Servant-leadership
- Brotherhood and church
- Authentic mentorships built into the schedule
- Pursuit of excellence in everything, respecting many paths of achievement.

"The proposed governance of this potential new confessional Lutheran school would be a separate conference organized by WELS congregations that wish to join, similar to the WLHS Conference. Churches could be in more than one conference simultaneously...

"The following is the working Mission Statement: *Building a brotherhood in Christ, for lives of purpose.* The working Vision Statement is: *Where young men develop their God-given gifts to lead in the home, serve in the church, engage in their work, and transform the community.*"

The number of urban Lutheran grade school graduates exceeds the number that can enroll at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. It is our prayer that this proposed new Lutheran high school would allow our church body to serve more graduates of our urban Lutheran schools.

LEARN ABOUT AND LIKE ST. PAUL'S



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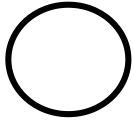
St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Muskego, WI



www.thebridgemuskego.org



The Bridge at St. Paul's



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters based on today's message

Life application materials for us in Connector Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

Love Your Enemies...Break the Chains

- 1) Winston Churchill once said, "You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life."
 - Tell of a time when your standing up created an enemy (even if only for a little while).
 - Was it the issue that caused the rift or the way you approached the issue?
 - Did things ever get resolved between you and your "enemy?" Explain.

- 2) Read Matthew 5:43-48. How do these verses...
 - ...support the idea that Christianity is a whole new way of looking at things?
 - ...define what "children of your Father in heaven" look like?
 - ...counter the prevalent, "tit for tat—don't get mad, get even" philosophy of the world.
 - ...lay down the standard for any and all human interaction?

- 3) We maybe can't appreciate this as much today, but why are chains such a good image to illustrate an emotional attachment to someone/something (consider: feel, sound, weight, length, marks left, etc.)?

- 4) Read Romans 12:17-21, 13:8-10. For what things in your life should chains be cut? Why?

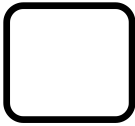
- 5) Read Romans 5:6-11. With what should you have stronger chains attached? Why?

- 6) Read Philippians 1:12-14 and Acts 16:25-34. How might God use you and your personal story of becoming unshackled, in order to free someone else?

PRAY

Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay, Death brooded darkly o'er me,
Sin was my torment night and day, In sin my mother bore me;
Yea, deep and deeper still I fell, Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.

But God beheld my wretched state, Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of His mercies great, He planned my soul's salvation.
A father's heart He turned to me, Sought my redemption fervently:
He gave His dearest Treasure.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

#WhatJesusSaid: Love your Enemies

Chained to Your Enemy

Matthew 5:43-48, page 970

1. Chained to our enemy by vengeance

a. Our efforts to break the chain

- By being quick to s_____ and slow to l_____
- By i_____ our enemy

b. The God's way to break the chain

- By being quick to d_____ (Romans 5:6-11)
- By p_____ our enemy into God's hands (Romans 12:17-21)

2. Chained to our enemy by love

a. Paul is chained to the guard and the _____ is chained to _____
(Acts 28:16; Philippians 1:12-13)

b. Chained to s_____ well and to a_____ well (1 John 3:11-18).

c. Chained to go the extra mile even when f_____ (Matthew 5:41).

d. Chained to r_____, making enemies into friends (Philippians 4:22)

My Next Steps

- **Memorize the Eighth Commandment:** You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.
- **Read Romans 12:17-13:10.** Who are your enemies? What debt of love do you owe them?
- **Memorize Romans 13:14:** Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.