

LOVE

LOVE FIGHTS

February 17 and 18, 2018

Forty days in the wilderness without food. Nailed to a cross and left to die. Does God really love me? The temptation is often there to give up on a relationship when we don't feel the love. Love, however, refuses to throw in the towel. Love fights to hold on to what it knows and believes.

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 122, vv. 1-4

Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

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

C Amen.

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, we live in a world that is held in bondage to sin and death. We have experienced the truth of it in our own lives. The tempter is always misleading us, and our sinful natures are only too ready to give in.

C **Today, however, we celebrate the victory of our Lord Jesus over the tempter.**

M Because Jesus won the victory, we are able to come before God in faith and freedom, acknowledging our sin and trusting that through Jesus Christ, our Lord we, too, enjoy victory over the tempter and all he stands for.

C **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.**

LORD HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

M As our Substitute and Savior, our Lord Jesus said a determined, "No," to self and a dedicated, "Yes," to his Father's saving will. He won the victory over the tempter and moved steadfastly to the cross as God's atoning sacrifice for our sins. In Jesus' name, then, I assure you: your sins are forgiven.

C **Amen.**

M In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord.

HYMN 122, v. 5

Sing, My Tongue the Glorious Battle

**Unto God be praise and glory;
To the Father and the Son,
To th' eternal Spirit honor
Now and evermore be done --
Praise and glory in the highest
While the timeless ages run.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, the darkness deepens. The ancient foe exploits means new and old to trick us with his dread deceits and flat-falling promises.

C **We, like Old Testament Israel, wander through the wilderness.**

M Guard us this Lent, O God. Reach out to help us with your strong right hand. Defend us against all that threatens our life in Christ.

C **Guide us with your Scripture Word. Keep us steadfast in your will.**

M When we grow weak, encourage us.

C **When we fall, raise us up.**

M And lead us ever forward, as you led your people, Israel,

C **that we might see your glory.**

M We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 22:1-18, Bible page 20

God commands Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering. Abraham is willing to carry out this command because he trusts the words and promises of God.

ANTHEM (*Sunday 9:15 am*)

Lord Jesus, Be Near Me, Lutheran School Grades 4 and 5

PSALM OF THE DAY (*Saturday and Sunday 7:45 am*)

Psalm 3

Arise, O LORD! Deliver me!



O LORD, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against me!
Many are saying of me,
“God will not deliver him.”

But you are a shield around me, O LORD;
you bestow glory on me and lift up my head.
To the LORD I cry aloud,
and he answers me from his holy hill.

Refrain

I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.
I will not fear the tens of thousands
drawn up against me on ev’ry side.

Arise, O LORD!
Deliver me, O my God!
From the LORD comes deliverance.
May your blessing be on your people.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:31-39, Bible page 1133

In this world we are like Jesus, sharing his love with everyone around us.

HYMN OF THE DAY 200

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

SERMON

Mark 1:12-15, Bible page 1001

Mark 15:34, Bible page 1022

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*)

Anthem for the Psalms, Brass Ensemble
arr. by Thomas Tallis

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.

CLOSING HYMN 431, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

I Walk in Danger All the Way

CLOSING PRAYER

M Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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.

C **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY PARTNER VIDEO *Costa Maya Ministries*

POSTLUDE (*Sunday*) **The Old Rugged Cross, Brass Ensemble**

ORGANIST *Nicole Greanya*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of February 19, 2018

MON	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Woodwind Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
TUE	9:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Voting for Muskego Elections in Trinity Gym Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room) Pastoral Circuit Meeting (St. John's, Mukwonago) Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library) Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony) <i>DivorceCare</i> Ministry (School Classroom 9) Dorcas Society (Grace Room) <i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (Faith Room) Volleyball League Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
WED	9:30 am 3:30 pm 4:30 pm 4:30 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room) Lenten Worship Service Soup Supper hosted by the Cancer Support Group (Grace Room) Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes Lenten Worship Service Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 6:45 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) <i>Financial Peace University</i> (Grace Room) Stoney Creek Bible Study – <i>Luther and Worship</i> (Stoney Creek) Pickleball League (Trinity Gym) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran School Chapel Service (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am 8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 6:30 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Grace Room Bible Study <i>Legacy Journey</i> (Faith Room) Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Teens Under God (TUG) (Trinity Café and Gym)

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER

Our annual congregational chicken dinner is this Sunday, February 18, 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. Donations in excess of expenses will go toward our Costa Maya mission partner.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISM

Jackson David Bruce, son of Peter and Emily Bruce, was born September 10, 2017, and will be baptized after the 10:45 am worship service on Sunday, February 18. We praise God for the gift of saving faith given to Jackson through the waters of baptism and God's Word.

HOSPITALIZED

Audrey Bluhm is at St. Luke's, Norman Boye and Brittany Michaels are at Froedtert, and Margaret Kujath is rehabbing at Waukesha Linden Grove. Glen Ebeling has been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

915 attended last weekend's worship services. 557 attended on Ash Wednesday.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Tom Goodman, Janelle Gray, John Hansen, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Cheri Sorensen, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

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.

SCHOOL OF EARLY LEARNING TEACHERS AID OPENING

SOEL is hiring a year-round, full-time, teachers aide for the Infant Room. Hours are Monday - Friday, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm. Experience in childcare or a related field is preferred. Contact SOEL Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org to apply. You may also stop by the SOEL office located in the east wing of the church to pick up an application.

ST. PAUL'S DECORATING TEAM

Join the team that decorates the church for holidays such as Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. You will be contacted 3-4 times per year, letting you know when the decorating is scheduled to take place. You can then let us know if the session works for you. A flair for interior design is great, but not necessary. Sign up on the back of the Connection Card or by calling the church office at (414) 422-0320.

SING PRAISES IN THE CHOIR ON EASTER SUNDAY

The St. Paul's Easter Festival Choir is open to anyone in 8th grade on up. Rehearsals are Sundays at 8:00 am in the Faith Room and Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the church balcony, beginning February 20. Contact Michele Eiche at meiche4@wi.rr.com or Pastor Bonack at jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org for more information.

HAAG SMALL GROUP BOWLING EVENT BREAKS RECORD

For the past 13 years, Jim and Kathie Haag's small group has sponsored a bowling tournament to raise funds for special mission causes in WELS. On January 28, 71 bowlers, 11 non-bowlers, 8 Lighthouse youth, and 35 other donors joined to raise \$4,600 for the Lighthouse Youth Center. Lighthouse, a WELS-affiliated inner city Milwaukee youth ministry, has been the donation destination for the past three years with WELS Kingdom Workers benefitting the decade prior. Over its history, the Haag event has raised over \$50,000 for Milwaukee area WELS missions. St. Paul's member, Amy Gehrke, was the bowling champion for women.

COSTA MAYA MINISTRIES

In August 2007, Hurricane Dean, a category 5 storm, struck Mahahual, Mexico, an underdeveloped and relatively new frontier area in the Yucatan Peninsula. It nearly destroyed the home of Lynn and Jerry Zimpelmann, seasonal residents from Wisconsin. In retrospect we can see how the Lord used that storm to bless His Church and His people.

The Holy Spirit at Work

Because of the storm, Deb and Hugh Blackburn became on-site caretakers for the Zimpelmanns' property. Deb, not a Christian at the time, joined the Zimpelmanns in their daily worship and fellowship. The Holy Spirit began working in her heart and she continued fervently in God's Word after Lynn and Jerry departed for the States. The Spirit then sustained Deb in her new faith walk while she studied--virtually alone. As she grew spiritually and tried to share her faith, it became apparent that Mahahual might be a place to plant a mission.



While Wisconsin Synod officials were excited about starting a new mission, they could offer no monetary support. Nevertheless, a small core of praying believers decided to go forward. They named their effort *Costa Maya Ministries*, recognizing their mission dreams were more than to serve Mahahual, but the entire Costa Maya region. Over the years, a network of congregations and individuals have become mission partners with Costa Maya Ministries.

Mission Partner & Mission Trip Opportunities

Pastor Martin Valleskey, who recently served in the Milwaukee area at Christ-St. Peter's, now serves this mission outpost. In the fall of 2017, he and Jerry Zimplemann invited St. Paul's to become a mission partner. This mission partner relationship will not only provide financial support, but also give St. Paul's members an opportunity to get involved personally in a third-world mission effort. Mahahual is just a few hours south of Cancun. Short-term mission teams can fly into Cancun quite inexpensively, provide assistance over a weekend of ministry in Mahahual, and return home all in a "long weekend."

Learn More, Consider a Mission Trip to Mahahual

A son of our congregation and former teacher in our school, Dan Thiel, joined this mission effort in December. Dan is back in Wisconsin this weekend and is looking forward to meeting with many friends here at St. Paul's. He will be available to answer questions in the church lobby after each of the Sunday services. He will also give a 30-minute presentation at 10:30 am in the Grace Room.

Support the Mission – Eat Chicken!

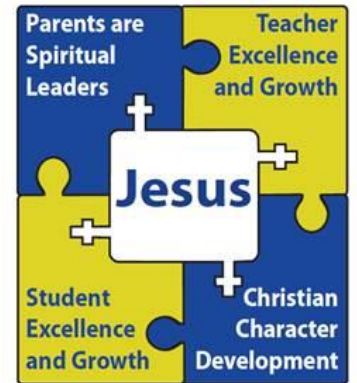
All gifts received at this year's St. Paul's Chicken Dinner, in excess of expenses, will go towards support of our new Mexican Mission Partner. You may also support this effort any time in the future by clearly marking your gift "Mexican Mission Partner" or by giving online at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWS

ENROLL NOW FOR PRE-K THROUGH 8TH GRADE

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is open for our 3K to 8th grade Lutheran school. School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons would love to give you a tour of our school facilities and answer any questions you may have. He can be reached at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118, or sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org.

- Flexible 3K & 4K programs
- Exemplary Accredited Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade
- Before and after school extended care and summer care
- Over \$800,000 in tuition assistance last year
- Participation in the Milwaukee and Wisconsin School Choice programs (Income eligibility is available at the Welcome Center in the lobby)
- Online application process: www.stpmuskego.org/tads



MR. JEFF WETZEL DECLINED DIVINE CALL

Mr. Jeff Wetzel, our 5th grade co-teacher, has declined his call to Lamb of God Lutheran School in West Allis to serve as school principal and 7th and 8th grade teacher. We thank God for leading Mr. Wetzel to continue his service among us and pray that the Lord would lead the right candidate to Lamb of God according to his plan. Mr. Wetzel writes the following to the congregation:

Dear members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Praise be to God whose infinite wisdom provides comfort and guidance throughout our lives.

Over the past weeks I have had the responsibility and opportunity to look at two divine calls- my current call to St. Paul's and the present call to Lamb of God Lutheran. Similar in the mission to provide a high quality, Christ-centered education, both calls ask me to use my gifts and talents to serve and honor the Lord and the Church.

As I struggled over this deliberation, I took comfort from the words of Proverbs 3:5-6. *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.* It is at times like this, when life is comfortable and settled, that God reaches out and teaches us to truly trust Him.

After much prayerful consideration, God's direction and guidance has led me to return the call to teach and lead at Lamb of God Lutheran. I am trusting that this is the decision the Lord led me to make and how he wants me to use my gifts at the present time.

While it is sad to think about leaving a school without a teacher and leader I take comfort knowing that everything is in God's hands and He will provide a qualified teacher and leader for Lamb of God's ministry. I am excited to continue my ministry here at St. Paul's and pray I am able to continue to help St. Paul's move their ministry forward while bringing children closer to Christ.

Respectfully submitted in HIS service,

Jeffrey W. Wetzel

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT — LURED...

Lent is a time of repentance and reflection during the six weeks leading up to Easter. During our Wednesday Lenten services are taking a closer look at temptation, its source, its power, and God's answer to it with our series, *Lured*. Join us Wednesdays at 3:30 and 7:00 pm with this Wednesdays sermon theme *The Father of Lures*, based on John 8:42-47.



ENJOY A SOUP SUPPER BETWEEN SERVICES

Come enjoy a warm meal and camaraderie with your friends between our Wednesday Lenten services, 4:30 to 6:30 pm, in the Grace Room.. A free will offering is gathered at the soup supper to help defray the cost of the food and to support the ministry of the hosting group. The St. Paul's Cancer Support Group will be hosting this Wednesday's soup supper.

SUNDAYS IN LENT — LOVE...

God is love. Jesus is God's love in flesh and blood. We are to be "conformed to the image of God's Son" (*Romans 8:29*). When people see us, they are to see Jesus. We are called to be God's love in flesh and blood to the world. Our Sunday Lenten continues next weekend with *Love Takes Up the Cross*, based on Mark 8:31-38 and John 19:28-29.



EASTER FOR KIDS – SATURDAY, MARCH 24

St. Paul's annual Easter For Kids will be Saturday, March 24, 9:00-11:45 am, at the school. This event is for children ages 3-12. The morning will feature singing, games, crafts, the Easter story, and more. Online registration will open March 1 on the St. Paul's website. If you'd like to assist with this fun and faith-strengthening event mark the back of your Connection Card or contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.



WRANOVSKY, FITZSIMMONS, AND NELSON ATTEND DELEGATE MEETING

No, this is not the name of a famous law firm. These are the names of the men who represented St. Paul's at the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Winter Delegate Meeting on February 7 (Steve Wranovsky, Seth Fitzsimmons, and Joel Nelson). Issues discussed were the following:

- 1) *Enrollment*: An 18% drop over last year. 20% drop from suburban congregations.
- 2) *Branding*: A new campaign to make more families aware of WLHS and its offerings will be launched under the tag line, "Where Success Means More."
- 3) *Dorm Development*: WLHS will tear down six apartment buildings currently owned by the high school and build two new "3-floor tower" buildings, one to house international students and one to be rented to the general public. The project will begin this summer.
- 4) *Academics*: ACT testing results reveal that 75% of the Class of 2018 received scores that placed them in the top 1/3 of all students nationwide who took the test (70th percentile). The top 25% of the class averaged in the 91st percentile on the test.

A more detailed summary of the meeting is available in the church library. You may also talk to Steve, Seth, or Joel.

GROW CLOSER TO CHRIST

Mark your Connection Card to register or to receive more information.
You may also call the church office at (414) 422-0320.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE: A STUDY OF MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

Following the Promise will help you trace the promise of the Savior through the Bible all the way into your own life. This also serves as St. Paul's pre-membership study. Pastor Nate Strobel is leading this study in the Faith Room on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Read a section of Scripture each week and discuss it as a group with Pastor Pete Panitzke leading. New participants are always welcome. Attend on Mondays at 7:00 pm or Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in the Grace Room.

NEW GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY: SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE TO MORMONS

WELS Director of Mission Advancement John Sebald will be leading *Speaking the Truth in Love: A Distinctive, Biblical Approach to Address the Unique Challenges and Opportunities of Witnessing to Mormons*, Sundays in the Grace Room, 9:15-10:15 am, February 18 and 25.

STRONG FAMILIES - BLESSED LIVES

Dr. Joel Nelson is leading this Parent's Club study on Sundays at 9:15 am (same time as Kids Club) in school classroom 9. Explore the characteristics that make a family healthy and strong.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES IN CHURCH LIBRARY

Check out the church library, located across the hall from the Faith Room, to find resources on display that expand on our Bible class topics currently being offered.

THE LEGACY JOURNEY

The Legacy Journey is a seven-week, biblically based class that teaches how to truly live and leave a legacy for generations to come. This class will lead you deeper into investing, basic estate planning, and purposeful living. Mike Meyer and Gustavo Alcantara, both of whom work in the area of personal finance, are leading this course at 9:15 am in the Faith Room through April 8.

MOMMY & ME

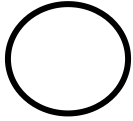
Mommy & Me is a new social, spiritual, and service-oriented ministry for moms of young children — infant through age five. The group meets at St. Paul's on Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 am, in the Faith Room. Contact Sam Lindner at sam.lindner2323@gmail.com or (989) 284-2854 for more information.

DIVORCECARE

If you are divorced or contemplating divorce, we are here for you. This is a support group for individuals, rather than couples. *DivorceCare* meets Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, in school classroom 9. Contact Kristen Miller at kmiller@stpaulmuskego.org, or (414) 422-0320 for more information.

DORCAS SOCIETY

All are invited to hear Pastor Don Tompson, from The Point of Grace Campus Ministry, speak on how college students are being guided in faith and Christian leadership, Tuesday, February 20, at 7:00 pm in the Grace Room.

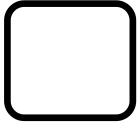


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters based on today's message

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

1. What was the reaction of your friends or co-workers to the news of the Parkland, Florida school shooting? Did a witness opportunity come out of that tragedy for anyone in the group?
2. Read Matthew's account of Jesus temptation (Matthew 4:1-11) and Luke's account (Luke 4:1-13). Are there any differences in these accounts that might add to your understanding of this event?
3. What is important for us to know about Satan so that we are prepared for his attacks? (See 1 Peter 5:8; Zechariah 3:1-2 and other passages your group might suggest.)
4. What are Satan's limitations that are important for us to remember? (See Job 1:12; 2:6 and other passages your group might suggest).
5. Read Revelation 12:7-12. What is frightening about Satan as our enemy? How do we overcome him? Why do you think that the authors of *Christian Worship* included Revelation 12:10 as part of the liturgy leading into communion on page 34?
6. Close your time with a circle prayer, each member of the group praying just a sentence or two in response to your study and to what others in the group have shared.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Love Fights

Mark 1:12-15, Bible page 1001

Mark 15:34, Bible page 1022

1. Love fights a personal enemy.

- a. Know your enemy.
- b. Know his most deadly attack (*Mark 15:34*).

What is the target on your back?

2. Love wins a personal victory

- a. Know who was victorious in temptation.
- b. Know where to find that victory in temptation.

What can you do with that target on your back?

My Next Steps to Prepare for My “Love Fight”

Recognize your personal enemy: The devil is like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour (*1 Peter 5:8*). What is the “weak spot” in your life where the devil will attack? What can you do to prepare for that attack?

Remember how to defend yourself from Satan’s attacks: Read Matthew 4:1-11 and Jesus’ use of God’s Word.

Claim your victory: Read Revelation 12:10-12 to see how to silence Satan’s accusations.

Pray: Martin Luther’s Morning and Evening Prayer ends with the petition: “Let your holy angel be with me that the wicked foe may have no power over me.” Pray that the Lord send an angel to protect you and others.