



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

LOVE

LOVE TAKES UP THE CROSS

February 25 and 26, 2017

When we think that love means happiness and roses and nothing more, we're in for serious disappointment. Love means sacrifice. Love means taking up a cross and carrying it to its finish.

PRESERVICE (*Saturday*)

Here I Am To Worship (Light Of The World), Woodwinds

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 453, vv. 1-4

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke

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



M Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,
C **Whose sins are covered.**

M Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him
C **And in whose spirit is no deceit.**

M When I kept silent my bones wasted away
C **Through my groaning all day long.**

M For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
C **My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

M Then I acknowledged my sin to you
C **And did not cover up my iniquity.**

M I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" —
C **And you forgave the guilt of my sin** (*Psalms 32:1-5*).

M Lord God, because it was for our sin that Jesus endured the mind-numbing anguish of the passion,

C **we confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, our reluctance to bear the cross.**

- M Forgive the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and your Word and Sacrament, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in your service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.
- C **Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in our condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.**
- 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. Amen. Forgiven and restored, we commit ourselves to following our Savior in life and in death. Let us praise the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE HYMN 453, v. 5

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke

Then let us follow Christ our Lord
 And take the cross appointed
 And, firmly clinging to his Word,
 In suff'ring be undaunted.
 For those who bear the battle's strain
 The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M The Lord be with you



C: And al - so with you.

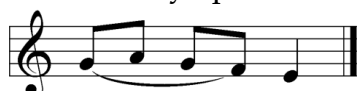
- M God of heaven, Lord of our salvation, you came into a hostile world to bring peace and comfort. You came to seek and to save the lost.

- C **Thank you, Jesus, for being willing to carry the cross for us.**

- M Be with us in your love and keep us mindful of your forgiveness.

- C **Help us to drink deeply today from you living water, that our thirst for you and your forgiving love may be thoroughly quenched.**

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



C: A - men.

FIRST LESSON

Romans 5:1-11, Bible page 1130

Jesus' redemptive work brings us back into God's family. We are not at war with God, but at peace. What joy and hope for this life and the next!

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross (*Philippians 2:8b*).

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38, Bible page 1011

Jesus instructs his followers about his suffering, death, and resurrection. When Peter reacts negatively, Jesus reminds him that the way of the Christ—the way of all Christians—is the cross.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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.

HYMN 434

Lord, You I Love with All My Heart

SERMON

Mark 8:31-38, Bible page 1011

John 19:28,29, Bible page 1087

Pastor David Kuehl

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Saturday*)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross with On A Hill Far Away

Woodwind Ensemble

(7:45 am) **O Christ, Who Called the Twelve**, *Lutheran School Junior Choir (Grades 5-8)*

(9:15 am) **Amazing Love**, *David Weise*

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.

THE SACRAMENT

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, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 7.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 465 452

**Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus**

CLOSING PRAYER

M We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

BLESSING

M The Lord bless 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE (*Saturday*) **How Deep The Father's Love For Us**, *Woodwinds*

PRESIDING MINISTER (*Sunday*) *Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Darik Mischke*

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.

We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. Following the Promise is currently being held on Tuesday evenings in the Faith Room. Contact Pastor Nate Strobel at nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org to register.

If you are a member of St. Paul's or a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to express our common confession by communing with us. You may wish to use the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on page 156 of Christian Worship to examine yourself. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card and placing it in the offering plate.

The light colored cups in the center of the individual cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine. Gluten-free wafers are located in the trays on the Communion rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform an usher as you approach the rail. The first pew in the left center section is reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail, and we kindly ask those who desire to be communed privately to use these pews.



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 26, 2018

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	Woodwind Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
TUE	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	6:00 pm	<i>DivorceCare</i> Ministry (School Classroom 9)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Volleyball League
	7:30 pm	Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
WED	9:30 am	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room)
	3:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service with Holy Communion
	4:30 pm	Soup Supper hosted by WLHS Mission Trip Participants (Grace Room)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service with Holy Communion
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS		No Lutheran School – Teacher Conference
	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:00 am	Quilting Fellowship (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	<i>Financial Peace University</i> (Grace Room)
	6:45 pm	Stoney Creek Bible Study – <i>Luther and Vocation</i> (Stoney Creek)
	7:00 pm	Pickleball League (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI		No Lutheran School – Teacher Conference
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
	8:00 am	Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room)
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service

HEAR AND SEE THE MESSAGE ONLINE!



- **Live:** Attend church remotely on Sundays at The Bridge at 10:15 am. Live streaming is available at www.thebridgemuskego.org, Facebook at *The Bridge at St. Paul's*, and You Tube at *The Bridge Church Muskego*. Past live replays are also available on each platform.
- **Sermon Videos and Podcasts:** Sunday sermons are available at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org. They are usually available Sunday afternoon/evening for that same Sunday's message.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISM

Josslynn Rae Tejada, daughter of Ruben and Shawna (nee Hochschild) Tejada, was born June 9, 2017, and will be baptized after the worship service on Saturday, February 24. We praise God for the gift of saving faith given to Josslynn through the waters of baptism and God's Word.

HOSPITALIZED

Ariannah Kain is at Children's, Brittany Michaels is at Froedtert, and Margaret Kujath is rehabbing at Waukesha Linden Grove. Audrey Bluhm and Norman Boye have been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

1069 attended last weekend's worship services. 392 attended midweek Lenten services.

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, Judith Lauber, 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.

CHURCH DINNER BRINGS THE ST. PAUL'S FAMILY TOGETHER AND RAISES FUNDS FOR COSTA MAYA

80 volunteers served 516 people at last Sunday's chicken dinner. \$847.57 in donations above the cost of expenses was graciously given. These dollars will be sent to support mission work being done in Costa Maya, Mexico. Thanks for your generosity! St. Paul's especially thanks Jim and Cindy Ross for organizing the event, as well as all those who made this year's dinner possible. Find out more about the Costa Maya mission on page 10 of this worship folder.

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, now through Easter. Contact Michele Eiche at meiche4@wi.rr.com or Pastor Bonack at jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org for more information.

THRIVENT MEMBERS – CHOICE DOLLARS

"Generous, meaningful living" is one of St. Paul's core values. Thrivent members exhibited that value last fiscal year by directing over \$6,000 in Thrivent Choice funds to St. Paul's ministries. Thank you!

Now is the time to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to the ministry you would like to support. Please visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice for more information on the process for designating your Choice Dollars.

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, to apply. You may also stop by the SOEL office located in the east wing of the church to pick up an application.

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."

Support the Mission

A son of our congregation and former teacher in our school, Dan Thiel, joined this mission effort in December for a one-year volunteer position. It is our prayer that this personal connection can blossom as we give special gifts to support Costa Maya Ministries as our "Mexican Mission Partner" and help us organize mission trips to show Christian love in person to the people of Mahahual.

Make a one-time or recurring gift at www.stpaulmuskego.org or clearly mark your gift "Mexican Mission Partner" before placing it in the offering plate.



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 *Lures Are Tailor-Made* based on John 12:4-6 and Luke 22:3-5. What is so interesting to you that you just might turn your back on God to swim towards it? Sadly, the Enemy knows that answer even better than you do. Join us this Wednesday to learn more.



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. Wisconsin Lutheran High School mission trip participants 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 Protects*, based on John 2:13-22 and John 19:25-29.



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.



EASTER FLOWERS

Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Center if you would like to purchase one of the flowers that will beautify the altar on Easter Sunday. The flowers will be placed at the altar for all Easter services and may be picked up after the 10:45 am Easter worship service. Payment should be made out to St. Paul's and placed in the provided envelopes marked "Easter Flowers" available at the Welcome Center. A lock box is there for you to place your payment.

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.

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

WELS Director of Mission Advancement John Sebald is 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 25.

STUDY I THESSALONIANS IN MARCH

Join Wisconsin Lutheran High School Campus Pastor Phil Huebner in looking at how the Apostle Paul encouraged a new mission congregation to band together as a family of believers in difficult times, waiting for Christ's return. This special letter will encourage us to do the same. *I Thessalonians* will be offered Sundays in March, 9:15-10:15 am, in the Grace Room.

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.

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.

ST. PAUL'S LOVES KIDS AND TEENS

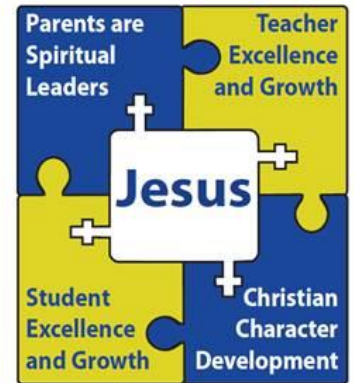
ENROLL NOW FOR PRE-K THROUGH 8TH GRADE

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



WELS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY THIS SUMMER

St. Paul's would like to send a group to this summer's WELS International Youth Rally in Bowling Green, Ohio (June 26-29). St. Paul's teens interested in receiving more information about this summer's rally should contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org by March 1. He will add you to the information list and send you updates as they come out. You can also go to wels.net/2018youthrally for up to date details from WELS.

TUG TALKS TO LOOK AT JOSEPH

For a man with so much hope for the future, the Old Testament figure, Joseph, spent a good part of his life rejected, abandoned, and imprisoned. How did he endure the abuse, betrayal, disappointment, and injustice so prevalent in his life? The next two *TUG Talks* will explore how the God-guided choices Joseph made helped him overcome every overwhelming obstacle life threw at him. These *TUG Talks* will challenge you to look to God in times of turmoil. *Joseph: Abandoned, Tested, Trapped, Promoted* will be presented the Sundays of February 25 and March 15 in the Trinity Café, 6:30-8:00 pm.



A place for teens to grow in faith and develop Christian relationships

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

STONEY CREEK ADULT COMMUNITY DAY TRIP

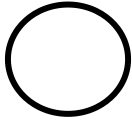
Stoney Creek invites you on a day trip to the Schauer Arts Center in Hartford to see *The Willis Clan*. This musically gifted family was featured on *America's Got Talent* and are comprised of singers, dancers, musicians, writers, and artists. Before the show the bus will stop at MJ Stevens Restaurant, also located in Hartford. Join in the fun Wednesday, May 23, at a cost of \$71. Contact Charlene at (414) 422-4686 to reserve your spot.

STONEY CREEK ADULT COMMUNITY OVERNIGHT TRIP

Stoney Creek invites you on an overnight motorcoach trip to experience the *Amish Barn Quilt Tour* in Shawano on June 27 and 28. Highlights of the trip include touring an Amish one-room school house, Amish farms and manufacturing, enjoying an Amish family-style meal, touring the town looking at over 70 barn quilts, and stopping at the Sundrop Museum. Cost is \$190 per person. Contact Charlene to reserve your spot at (414) 422-4686.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL AND SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Wisconsin Lutheran High School will present *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, March 2-4. Reserved tickets are available at the WLHS reception desk or by printing out the online ticket order form at www.wlhs.org/finearts. Before the Friday, March 2 performance, an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner will be served in the cafeteria to support the fine arts department. Wisco Kids and Inspiration will perform during the dinner. Tickets will be sold at the door at a cost of \$10 for adults and \$8 for children. More information may be found at www.wlhs.org.

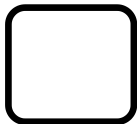


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters based on today's message

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

1. Share highs and lows with your group and begin your time together in prayer.
2. This week's message title is "Love Takes Up the Cross." What does that mean to you?
3. Read Mark 8:31-38.
 - a. What do you suppose Peter's rebuke in v. 32 might have sounded like?
 - b. If you were Peter, what might you have said in response to Jesus' words in v. 33?
 - c. How would you explain Jesus' words in v. 34-38 to a child in first or second grade?
4. In Philippians 2:6-8 we're reminded that Jesus took up the cross of becoming human and experiencing our every pain, temptation, and toil. Can you think of a specific account from Jesus' life here on earth that affirms he has experienced one of *your personal struggles*?
5. Take one or two minutes of silence to think of a time that you intentionally tried to (or successfully did) fulfill Jesus' words in Mark 8:34-38. Share that experience with your group.
6. What does "love takes up the cross" mean when we consider applying that principle to our family, friends, and neighbors?
7. Can you think of one person or circumstance that might benefit from hearing your "A-Ha!" from this message? Pray together for courage and wisdom to share boldly over the course of the next seven days!



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

+ Love Takes Up the Cross +

Mark 8:27-38 and John 19:28, 29 (Bible pages 1011 and 1087)

Surprise = Unexpected

A. It was that way for Jesus.

1. The nation of Israel anticipated a Messiah of g_____ and g_____, not s_____ and s_____.
2. P_____, too, had this mental picture of the Messiah. Thus his rebuke of Jesus.
3. Jesus was under constant d_____ to give up his heavenly Father's p_____ for the salvation of the world.
4. In the G_____ of G_____ we see that Jesus' struggle to take up his cross and deny himself was very real.
5. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. For him it was all about s_____ and s_____.

B. Why should it be any different for us?

1. Jesus paid the price to show us God's love not only that we might l_____ with him eternally in h_____, but that we would s_____ him in this l_____.
2. We carry the cross and deny ourselves by living our lives by this acronym:
 - a. J_____
 - b. O_____
 - c. Y_____
3. We're only limited by what we w_____ to do for Jesus.

Put Jesus first, others second, and yourself last (JOY).