

LOVE

LOVE FORGIVES

March 17 and 18, 2018

Forgiveness—it sounds so easy. Yet there are times when we just can't forgive, when we simply don't want to forgive. If anyone had reason to feel that way, it was Jesus. Jesus, however, unconditionally forgives even the men who nailed him to the cross. Forgive, God says, as I have forgiven you. Love forgives.

PRESERVICE (*Sunday*)

Go to Dark Gethsemane, Handbells
arr. by Jeffrey Honore

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 108

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

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

C **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

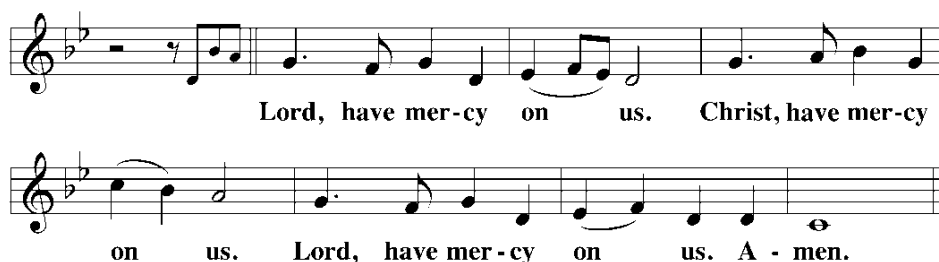
M Brothers and sisters in Christ, each one of us has been forgiven a debt of sin so immense that it ought to boggle our minds.

C **Why is it, then, that we find it so difficult to let go of the sins that others have committed against us?**

M By nature we don't want to admit our sin or the depth of our depravity. Yet God calls us to examine our hearts in the light of his perfect and holy will and to confess all our sin—both the sins we are aware of and those we are not. Let's heed God's call, therefore, and confess our sins.

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.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY



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

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.**

Prayer and Praise

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

SONG OF PRAISE 387, vv. 1, 3

Drawn to the Cross

**Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in you my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing through your cross and pain,
Christ crucified, I come.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, today your Word reminds us that your heart overflows with mercy.
Empower us to forget wrongdoing,
C **just as you have put our sins out of your mind.**

M Make us a people rich in forgiveness,
C **generous in mercy.**

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

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Bible page 789

God promises to make a new covenant with his people—a covenant in which he will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more.

Because of his great love and faithfulness, the Lord deserves all praise and glory.

Refrain



Not un-to us, O Lord, but to your name be the glo - ry.

Psalm Tone



Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us but to your name be the glory,
 because of your love and faithfulness.
 Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?"
 Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

The LORD remembers us and will bless us:
 He will bless the house of Israel,
 he will bless those who fear the LORD—
 small and great alike.

Refrain

May the LORD make you increase,
 both you and your children.
 May you be blessed by the LORD,
 the Maker of heaven and earth.

The highest heavens belong to the LORD,
 but the earth he has given to man.
 It is not the dead who praise the LORD,
 it is we who extol the LORD, both now and forevermore.

**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

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33, Bible page 1078

Jesus' road to glory was the road of the cross. Through his suffering, death, and resurrection, Jesus draws all people to himself.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Bible page 789

Luke 23:34, Bible page 1059

Pastor David Kuehl

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 *(Saturday)*
(Sunday)

Only, Always, Pastor Jeffrey and Laura Bonack
Jesus, I Will Ponder Now, Handbells
Kristin Miller, flute
arr. by Sandra Eithun

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.
- C **We confess that without your love we are lost.**
- M Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.
- C **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**
- M We pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.
- C **By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**
- M We pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

M We pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful, even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C 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 HYMN 493

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

CLOSING PRAYER

M Let us pray.

Jesus, your great love for the world moved you to take on our human flesh and blood. In more ways than one, you allowed yourself to be broken so that we could be made whole.

C We stand in awe of the sacrifice you made for us. As we go out into the world, make us strong to do your will and to live for your glory.

M We pray, Jesus, in your name. You live and reign with the Father 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

ORGANIST *Kathy Bremer*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of March 19, 2018

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Woodwind Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
TUE	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Pastoral Circuit Meeting (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:00 pm	<i>DivorceCare</i> Ministry (School Classroom 9)
	6:30 pm	Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Dorcas Society (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Volleyball Adult Open Gym (Trinity Gym)
7:30 pm	Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Church Balcony)	
WED	9:30 am	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room)
	1:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> (Grace Room)
	3:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	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
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	<i>Financial Peace University</i> (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran School Chapel (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	9:00 am	Easter for Kids (School)
	9:30 am	Easter Festival Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal (Main Church)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	8:00 am	Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room)
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries
	9:45 am	The Bridge Holy Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion
6:30 am	TUG – Teens Under God (Trinity Café)	

SUM OF MONEY FOUND ON CHURCH PARKING LOT

A sum of cash was found on the church parking lot on Sunday, January 28. If you believe this could be yours, please contact Tom Neubauer with further details at (414) 529-5835.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISMS

Lily Joy Nelson, daughter of Eric and Aly (nee Tenpas) Nelson, was born January 13, 2018, and will be baptized in a private ceremony after the worship service on Saturday, March 17, 2018

Adalind Jane Rydzik, daughter of Nicholas and Rachael Rydzik, was born August 5, 2017, and will be baptized at the 10:45 am worship service on Sunday, March 18, 2018.

We rejoice with the Nelsons and Rydziks in the gift of saving faith given to Lily and Adalind through the waters of Baptism and God's Word.

FUNERALS

John Scott Hansen, born June 8, 1952, entered eternal life in heaven on March 13, 2018. Visitation is Thursday, March 22, 10:00 – 11:00 am, with the funeral immediately following.

Ken Klement, born April 23, 1951, entered eternal life in heaven on March 15, 2018. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of John and Ken.

HOSPITALIZED

Brittany Michaels is at Froedtert and Margaret Kujath is rehabbing at Waukesha Linden Grove. Bruce Marggraf and Betty Teisl have been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

985 attended last weekend's worship services. 401 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, 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.

MR. SKIP BREMER DIVINE CALL RECEIVED

Mr. Skip Bremer, St. Paul's member and former St. Paul's school administrator, has received a divine call to be principal at Nebraska Lutheran High School. Mr. Bremer is currently serving at Wisconsin Lutheran High School as director of guidance. Please keep Mr. Bremer and his wife, 4K Teacher Mrs. Kathy Bremer, in your prayers. If you would like to speak with Skip he can be reached at (262) 202-1963 or skip.bremer@wlhs.org.

MRS. SALLY WALLNER – MUSKEGO VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!

St. Paul's Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner has received the Muskego Chamber of Commerce 2017 Volunteer of the Year award! We congratulate Sally and are so thankful for her light that shines with the love of Christ in our community and at St. Paul's. As an ambassador for St. Paul's, Sally is a shining example to our community of the love of Christ that also flows through St. Paul's. If you would like to speak with Sally about future outreach volunteer opportunities, she can be reached at (414) 422-0320, ext. 294, or swallner@stpaulmuskego.org.



LENT AT ST. PAUL'S

THIS WEEK FOR LENT

At our Wednesday Lenten services we are taking a closer look at temptation, its source, its power, and God's answer to it with our series *Lured*. Join us each week at 3:30 and 7:00 pm, with this Wednesday's sermon theme *Armed to the Hilt*. In the famous account of Jesus' temptation, we find the key to resisting the allure of sin. Prepare by reading Ephesians 6:1-10 and Matthew 4:1-12.

Next weekend our *Love* series continues with Palm Sunday and *Love Sees It Through*, based on Mark 11:1-10 and John 19:28-30. God's love is committed. God's love sees it through. Dig in deeper next weekend.

SUPPORT TEENS AND MISSIONS

The Wednesday, March 21 Soup Supper (4:30 – 6:30 pm) will be hosted by mission trip participants from Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Free will offerings will support this outreach effort.

EASTER FOR KIDS – SATURDAY, MARCH 24

- Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 to 11:45 am, at the school
- 3-12 years old (3K- 6th Grade)
- The Easter story, Easter crafts, singing, games, snacks, and fun!
- Register online at www.stpaulmuskego.org/easter-for-kids/, complete 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 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.

EASTER MEALS FOR THOSE IN NEED

Our Food Pantry Team will be distributing food to families in need within our congregation and community for Easter. Please contact Pastor Kuehl at dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 121 if you, or a family member or friend would appreciate a food basket this year.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

March 29	Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion	3:30 and 7:00 pm
March 30	Good Friday	1:00, 3:30, and 7:00 pm
March 31	Easter Vigil *	5:00 pm
April 1	Easter Sunrise *	6:00 am
	Easter Festival	7:45, 9:15 and 10:45 am
	Easter at The Bridge	10:15 am

* The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunrise services will be identical.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

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

AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW JESUS BETTER

Anyone and everyone is invited to *Following the Promise*, a Bible study tracing the promise of the Savior through the Bible all the way into your own life. This study also serves as St. Paul's pre-membership study. Pastor Nate Strobel is leading these studies in the Faith Room on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm beginning May 8. A second class begins Sunday, April 15, 8:30-9:30 am, in school classroom 9.

DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE COURSE FOR TEENS AND PARENTS

St. Paul's member and father of teens, Erich Gunther, has offered to present *Generation Change*—a course for teens and parents. *Generation Change* was created by Dave Ramsey and his daughter to lead teens to a better understanding of God, themselves and their money—and how it all works together. Mark the back of your Connection Card or email Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmsukego.org if you are interested.

TUG TALK



The next TUG Talk is Sunday, March 25, at 6:30 pm in Trinity Café. We will continue our look at Joseph: *Abandoned, Tested, Trapped, Promoted*. How did the God-guided choices Joseph made help him overcome every overwhelming obstacle life threw at him?

CLASS OF 2018 – LET US KNOW YOUR PLANS

St. Paul's will be celebrating our teens graduating from junior and senior high school this spring. Contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145 with the following:

CLASS
of
2018

- What school are you graduating from?
- What are your plans for fall 2017? 8th grade graduates - what high school? 12th grade graduates - what college, branch of military, or work area?

MOMMY & ME

Mommy & Me is a group 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

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, in school classroom 9. Contact Kristen Miller at kmiller@stpaulmuskego.org for more information.

TWELVE OILS OF ANCIENT SCRIPTURE

You are invited to *Ancient Oils of the Bible* on Sunday, April 15, 12:00-1:30 pm, in the Grace Room. Please contact Karen Schram (262) 232-7901 by April 8 to reserve your spot.

MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE

St. Lucas Lutheran Church in Bay View is looking for 4-5 men to fill out their roster for their Tuesday night softball league. Games are played at 6:30, 7:30, and 8:30 pm at Sijan Field in Bay View. If you are interested, please contact Mike Westendorf at mike@mikewestendorf.com or text (414) 507-8250.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL OPEN GYM – TUESDAYS AT 7:00 PM

Volleyball open gym is on Tuesdays, 7:00 -10:00 pm, in the Trinity Gym through April 24. No open gym on March 27 or April 3. Cost is 2 dollars per person. Court 1 is Competitive A; Court 2 is Level B. Contact Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner at swallner@stpaulmuskego.org for more information.

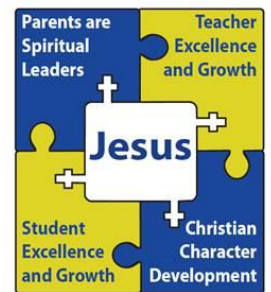
ST. PAUL'S NEWS

LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Our Pre-K enrollment is already at 83 for next year. Praise the Lord! We are projecting a Kindergarten class of 23 children – again, praise the Lord! In total we project to have over 310 children enrolled in our 3K-8th grade school learning from a Christian worldview every day. What a blessing!

Every week another family or two reaches out to Mr. Fitzsimmons or Mrs. Drska asking about our school. If you or someone you know would like more information, please contact Mr. Fitzsimmons at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118. He would love to give you a tour. You may also enroll directly at www.stpmuskego.org/TADS.

Generous tuition assistance packages are available in addition to the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. We don't want the cost of tuition to keep your children from the wonderful Christian education and experience at our school.



APACHE MEAL PACKING EVENT

With the generous gifts given by God's people here at St. Paul's, our Lutheran School students participated in a tremendous service project to feed the hungry!

On February 26, our Kindergarten through 8th grade classes filled the Trinity Gym with willing hands and hearts of love for the people of East Fork Lutheran Church on the Apache Reservation in Whiteriver, Arizona.

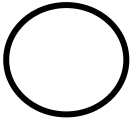
After the opening prayer led by School Administrator Mr. Fitzsimmons and final instructions from teachers and parent volunteers, the meal packing began. Eight to ten kids served at each table. The jobs consisted of pouring measured quantities of rice, beans, dehydrated vegetables, and vitamin powder into pre-labeled bags. The bags were then weighed, sealed, and placed in boxes. Each bag packed provided 6 nutritional meals and each meal only cost 17 cents to make. All food and materials were provided through World Wide Hunger Relief based out of Waukesha.

The day of service resulted in over 10,000 meals being given to those in need on the Apache Reservation. Your generosity even allowed nearly \$3000 more in direct financial aid to be sent to the church and school there.

This generosity is inspiring. With more generous giving like this, the possibilities to do more and more are endless! If you would like to speak with Mr. Fitzsimmons about future opportunities, please contact him at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118.

THE BIG MEAL PACKING EVENT





GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Where have you seen God active in your life this past week?

2. It's been said that the most difficult thing in the world to give is forgiveness. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?

3. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - a. In 31:32b, with what does God compare his relationship?

 - b. What makes the breaking of *that* relationship so difficult to forgive?

4. Read Jeremiah 11:1-17. What kinds of reactions go through your head and heart as you consider how often God's Old Testament people were unfaithful? How do similar examples of unfaithfulness show itself in Christians today?

5. Read again Jeremiah 31:33-34. Which of these promises means the most to you and why?
 - a. I will forgive their wickedness and remember...

 - b. I will be their God...

 - c. I will put my law in their minds...

6. What was your biggest "*a-ha!*" from this week's message?

7. What is one thing you can do this week to make your life reflect this new covenant of forgiveness? Close your time together in prayer for courage and humility in these efforts.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

+ Love Forgives +

Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Luke 23:34 (Bible pages 789 and 1059)

God's Primary and Secondary Characteristics

A. In love God forgave under the old covenant.

1. God compares his relationship to his people to a covenant between a h_____ and his w_____.
2. A vow is calling on God to w_____ the truth and to p_____ us if we break the covenant we are making.
3. God's old covenant was t_____-sided: If the people o_____, God would b_____ and r_____ them.
4. Despite the unfaithfulness and idolatry of his people, God l_____ them and in faithful love f_____ them.
5. The o_____ covenant was to keep the Old Testament believer looking ahead to the n_____ covenant that:
 - would be without the L_____;
 - would not be sealed with the blood of a _____;
 - would be sealed with the blood of the L_____ of God;
 - we remember whenever we celebrate the L_____ S_____.

B. In love God forgives under the new covenant.

1. What if God forgot the way we do...
 - for one season?
 - for one day?
 - for one second?
 - about me?
2. There is nothing God forgets except for our s_____.
3. In faithful love God c_____ to remember our sin no more.
4. God's new covenant is o_____-sided: Jesus did it all.

Don't we want to love like Jesus?