

Easter Vigil / Sunrise
April 15 and 16, 2017



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!

Thank you for celebrating Easter with us at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's is a family of believers in Jesus Christ who love each other and our community. Stop by the Welcome Center in the church entry for information about any of our ministries. An attendant will be there to answer your questions.

For Little Children: There is a "mother's room," where parents can go to quiet their children during the worship service. You can hear the service there. This room is to your right as you leave the center doors of the sanctuary.

Restrooms: Restrooms are to the left as you leave the sanctuary. There are also handicapped/family restrooms in the west wing of the church (to the right as you leave the sanctuary).

Special Needs: Large-print worship folders and hearing assistance aids are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Come back and worship with us again.

Our weekly worship schedule is as follows:

Traditional Services

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:45 and 9:15 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Contemporary Service

Sunday 10:45 am
The Bridge in the Trinity Gym
Sunday 10:15 am

Christian Education

Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

St. Paul's offers a vibrant ministry for youth on Sunday mornings for age 3 to grade 12. All age levels meet in our school classrooms from 9:15 until 10:15 am.



School of Early Learning - SOEL

St. Paul's School of Early Learning (SOEL) offers early learning experiences in a Christian childcare setting. The program is for children ages 6 weeks to 3 years old. The overall goal of SOEL is to assist parents in nurturing the spiritual, emotional, and social growth of young children. Contact SOEL Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org for a tour of this remarkable, caring environment.

Lutheran Pre-K and Elementary School

Have you considered a Christian education for your child? Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is happening now for our 3K to 8th grade Christian school. St. Paul's participates in the Milwaukee and Wisconsin Parental School Choice programs. Income eligibility information is at the Welcome Center. Our congregation also provides \$860,000 in tuition assistance each year. Don't let financial concerns keep you from exploring this opportunity to help your child grow in faith. Schedule a tour with our School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118, or sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org as soon as possible.





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

EASTER VIGIL / SUNRISE
RESURRECTION FAITH!

April 15 and 16, 2017

AS WE GATHER

On this weekend Christians throughout the world join their voices in praise and proclamation of the central fact of their faith—that Jesus suffered on the cross, died, was buried, and rose on the third day. The first lesson from Acts records the earliest sermons of the church testifying to the resurrection of our Lord. The Gospel according to St. Matthew records the reaction of the women to the empty tomb. From Colossians we hear St. Paul urge us to focus on the things of the faith as we live here on earth.

PRESERVICE SILENCE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

ENTRANCE DIALOGUE

M Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

M This is the day the Lord has made;

C **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

M Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:

C **The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!**

M The Lord's right hand is lifted high;

C **The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!**

M I will not die but live,

C **and will proclaim what the Lord has done.**

M This is the day the Lord has made.

C **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

M Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
 Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
 Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
 Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
 Unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
 Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
 Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
 Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
 Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
 Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
 Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
 Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

EASTER DIALOGUE

- M Grace and peace to you from him who is, who was, and who is to come, from our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
- C **To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us a kingdom and priests to serve God the Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen!**
- M The uncountable multitude of nations and peoples stand before the Lamb upon his throne and cry out with a loud voice:
- C **Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!**
- M And all the angels around the throne worship him saying:
- C **Blessing and honor, glory and thanksgiving, power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.**
- M And all the creatures of the earth shout:
- C **Amen!**
- M And all the saints and angels shout:
- C **Amen!**
- M And the people of the Lamb shout:
- C **Amen and Amen!**

Refrain:

**This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain***

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain***

**Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation. *Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Almighty God the Father, through your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, you have overcome death and the grave and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Acts 10:34-43

34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached — 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

39 "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. 41 He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen — by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

HYMN OF THE DAY 156

Awake, My Heart, With Gladness

Awake, my heart, with gladness! See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light Our spirit wings its flight.

The foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb.
But lo, he now is routed; His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free; In glorious victory
He who is strong to save Has triumphed o'er the grave.

This is a sight that gladdens—What peace it does impart!
Now nothing ever saddens The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake, No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.

Now I will cling forever To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never, Whate'er he passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain.
He shatters hell's dark thrall; I follow him through all.

APOSTLE'S 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

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, *Brass Ensemble*
arr. by Al Schumacher

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Father of mercy, you sent your Son to suffer in our place, and you raised him up in victory over sin and the grave. Give us faith that we may believe in him for our forgiveness, life, and salvation;

C **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live in you.**

M God of hope, build us up in the hope that because Jesus lives, we shall live also. Guide us, that amid so many and great temptations we may not lose faith or lose our way to eternity;

C **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live in you.**

M Life-giving Spirit, make us bold to speak the good news of Christ's death and resurrection to all people and give us a loving heart to welcome many into your faith and reverence.

C **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live in you.**

M God of mercy, grant healing and strength to the sick, the suffering, and the dying, especially those whom we name before you in our hearts;

C **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live in you.**

M Give to our nation and all our leaders wisdom to serve well in the positions of trust to which we have elected them. Guide all the nations and their leaders in paths of peace, freedom, and justice;

C **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live in you.**

M God of plenty, you have so richly blessed us with the things and money we too quickly call our own. Guide us in the use of these resources for the work of your kingdom and for the glory of your holy name, especially the offerings we bring before you now;

C **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live in you.**

M Remembering Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we pray that we may bring a faithful witness to our own generation even as they have left us a faithful witness to the resurrection;

C **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live in you.**

Special intercessions may follow.

M Merciful and loving Father, release us from the guilt of our sin that we may be freed by your grace to serve you and to glorify your holy name.

C **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in your will and walk in accord with your commandments.**

M Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C **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 152, vv. 1-2, 5-8

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

CLOSING PRAYER

M Lord, we praise you for this festive day and for the new perspective your resurrection brings to our lives. May the joy and the gladness we experience today set the tone for every day of our lives. In our living Savior's precious name we pray.

C **Amen.**

M God gives peace!

C **He brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, who by his blood made an eternal covenant to be the great Shepherd of the sheep.**

M May God make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ.

C **To Jesus be glory forever and ever!**

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGANIST *Nicole Greanya*



WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of April 17, 2017

MON		No Lutheran Elementary School – Easter Break
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
TUE	9:15 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library)
	7:00 pm	Dorcas Society Meeting (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Following the Promise (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Woodwind Rehearsal
WED	6:30 pm	Presentation: Civilian Response to Active Shooters (Grace Room)
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:45 pm	Stoney Creek Bible Study (Stoney Creek Adult Community)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Ministry Board Meeting
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran Elementary School Chapel (Church)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
	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
	10:30 am	Cancer Support Group Meeting
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service
	1:10 pm	Teens Under God Brewer Game Event

Multimedia Ministry

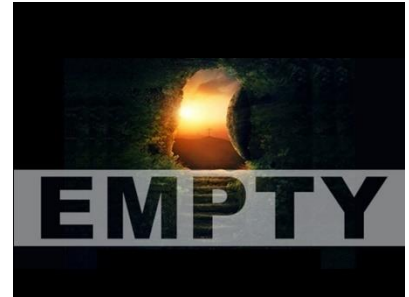


- **TV:** *Time of Grace*, Sundays at 5:30 am on UPtv, 7:00 am on WBME, and 10:30 am on WDJT. Thursdays at 3:30 pm on TBN. For a complete broadcast schedule, visit timeofgrace.org/waystowatch or call the *Time of Grace* office at (800) 661-3311.
 - **Radio:** Lutheran Radio Church Service, Sundays at 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
-

FILL UP AFTER EASTER!

NEW SERMON SERIES — EMPTY

Join us in worship after Easter as we take an honest look at the struggle sin brings to our everyday life and the feelings of emptiness that go along with it. Discover anew how the risen Jesus is the answer to our struggle and the solution to the emptiness we feel. The full message of hope and peace is found in the empty tomb.



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.” (1 Peter 1:3-4).

April 23

Empty Heart

1 Peter 1:3-9

When dealing with life’s disappointments and disasters, the empty tomb brings healing to our hearts. Hopelessness turns to hope. Faith is refined — and hope is found in the midst of suffering.

April 30

Empty Hands

Ephesians 1:3-14

When it seems as though we never have enough, the empty tomb is a reminder of how rich we really are. Jesus means contentment in the midst of whatever life situation we find ourselves in.

**May 7
(Confirmation Sunday)**

Empty Life

Philippians 3

When we’re looking for meaning and purpose in life, the empty tomb shows us how to work for things that really last.

**May 14
(Mother’s Day)**

Empty Home

John 14:1-6

When our homes are not what we want them to be, the risen Jesus can come and make them full again. Yet even more comforting is Jesus’ promise of a greater home in heaven.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home and Merle Johnson at Heritage at Deer Creek. James Beyer and Marvin Pellmann are at St. Luke's and Nancy Rindfleisch at Waukesha Memorial. Richard Cuccio has returned home.

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, Daniel Holtz, Brittany Gillespie, Dawn Jahns, Merle Johnson, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, and Jeanne Steinbrecher.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

1248 attended last weekend's worship services.

FUNERAL

Kim Sandvick, born August 27, 1930, entered eternal life with her risen Savior on April 12, 2017. The visitation will be at St. Paul's on Tuesday, April 18, from 1:00 to 3:30 pm, with the funeral immediately following. May God bless and keep Kim's loved ones in his care.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed funds towards the flowers beautifying the sanctuary today, many of which were given in memory of loved ones. May God give you peace in the resurrection of our Savior today and always.

DIVINE CALLS

St. Paul's Seventh Grade Teacher and Athletic Director Mr. Justin Walz has received a call to Siloah Lutheran School in Milwaukee to teach departmentalized math in the upper grades.

St. Paul's member and former School Administrator Mr. Skip Bremer has received a call to Salem Lutheran School in Stillwater, MN, to be principal and teach upper grades - departmentalized. (Mr. Bremer is the husband of our 4K Teacher Mrs. Kathy Bremer.)

St. Paul's Spanish Teacher Ms. Kristen Miller is currently holding two calls. One to Christ - St. Peter Lutheran School in Milwaukee to teach grade 4 and the other to Siloah Lutheran School in Milwaukee to teach grade 4.

St. Paul's Fifth Grade Teacher Mr. Jeff Wetzel continues to deliberate his call to St. Paul's Lutheran School in Howards Grove, WI, to be principal and teach grades 7 and 8.

Please join in praying for the Holy Spirit to give wisdom and peace to these called workers and sharing your Christian counsel as you feel led to do.

SOEL INFANT OPENINGS THIS FALL

St. Paul's School of Early Learning will have openings in the Infant Room this fall. Please contact SOEL Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org to schedule a tour.

NURSERY STAFF FOR THE BRIDGE

The Bridge service has grown to the point of needing hired nursery staff each week. If you are interested in this paid position, please contact Sally Wallner at swallner@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 218-5197.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

RESIDENT MISSIONARY GIFTS RECEIVED

St. Paul's has received a \$40,000 grant from the Antioch Foundation to help our congregation add pastoral staff so that we can share the love of Christ with more people. Special gifts matching that grant will allow us to begin the calling process soon. If you are able give a special gift, clearly mark your offering "Resident Missionary" or contact Pastor Pete at (414) 350-1436 for more information.

A HIDDEN GEM ON THE MALAWI MISSION FIELD

The latest *Mission Partner Communique* by Pastor John Holtz celebrates the ministry of Amanda Artz, a blessing to the Christians there and a role model for Christian women who have a passion for missions. Pick up a copy at the Welcome Center. Thank you for special gifts from St. Paul's members that provide about 1/3 of the support necessary for the ministry of Pastor Holtz, a son of our congregation.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE - NEW CLASS BEGINS MAY 23

This thought-provoking, faith-building class studies the truths of Christianity and the foundations of what our church teaches. It prepares you for membership in our church and is a great place to have your questions answered! A new class begins May 23. Pastor Pete Panitzke will be leading the 15-week course Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the Faith Room. Register by marking the back of your Connection Card.

GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

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 next Sunday through May 7 at 9:15 am.

GIVE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.

We will be holding a blood drive on campus Monday, April 24, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm in the Grace Room. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins are always welcome as well. Thank you for your support of this important community event.

ALL INVITED TO SAFETY PRESENTATION – APRIL 19

Our School of Early Learning invites all to attend "Civilian Response to Active Shooters" presented by Muskego Police Detective Carlo Davila. He will provide strategies, guidance, and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter. He will discuss history, prevalence, and trends of active shooter events. Detective Carlo will introduce the role of professional guardians, civilian response options, and stress factors that may play a role in decision making. He will also go over personal safety awareness tactics. The presentation will be Wednesday, April 19, from 6:30 until 9:00 pm in the Grace Room. RSVP to SOEL Director Kim Neubaer at kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org.

ST. PAUL'S YOUTH NEWS

GENEROSITY SHOWN THROUGH *JUMP ROPE AND HOOPS FOR HEART*

Over the past month our St. Paul's Lutheran School students have raised over \$9,500 for the American Heart Association. We are thankful for both the student and parent participation and generosity. It is truly a blessing to be a blessing to others because Jesus motivates us to serve others.

OUR SCHOOL SUPPORTED *SOLES FOR JESUS*

The Student Council at our Lutheran elementary school would like to share the great news of the generous donations that were provided for their *Soles for Jesus* shoe drive. They received over 950 pairs of shoes! All of the support and donations were greatly appreciated. The shoes will be sent to American missionary teams who partner with Christians in various African countries. "The shoes will help bring the gospel of Jesus to people of all ages who are less fortunate than us," reports Grace Schneider representing the Student Council.

ATTENTION TEENS! BREWER TIME!

TUG (Teens Under God) is going to Miller Park to see the Brewers vs. Cardinals for the 1:10 pm game on Sunday, April 23. Sign up on Survey Monkey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/PZFMKJZ or in the church lobby by Sunday, April 16. Tickets are \$20 each with transportation provided or you are welcome ride with your parents. Payment should be given to St. Paul's Accountant Becky Wetzel in the St. Paul's office. Clearly state that the funds are for the TUG Brewer game.

HELP IMPROVE OUR MINISTRY TO TEENS: SURVEY ON WEBSITE

Two short surveys are on the home page of our church website at www.stpaulmuskego.org. Thank you for taking the time to participate.

CLASS OF 2017 DATA NEEDED

St. Paul's will be celebrating our class of 2017 teens who are graduating from junior and senior high school. Please forward your plans for after graduation as soon as possible to jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.

ST. PAUL'S YOUTH NEWS

EASTER FOR KIDS WAS AWESOME!

St. Paul's Easter for Kids, Saturday, April 8, was a great day!

- 106 children, ages 3-12 attended.
- 21 guests joined us.
- 39 volunteers, 15 of them teens, helped make the 3.5 hour event run exceptionally well.

St. Paul's thanks everyone who participated and helped. We will keep in contact with these children and their families to do all we can to keep them close to Jesus, the Messiah who lived, died and rose again for them.



LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – ENROLLMENT INFO

New families are enrolling in our school at a steady pace. To God be the glory and thanks! If you or someone you know would like to visit our Lutheran school, 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 by clicking on TADS in the left menu column.

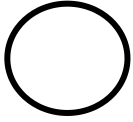
The application window for Milwaukee Parental Choice has ended. However, the Wisconsin Choice Program application window continues through April 20. Income guidelines are available at the Welcome Center. Generous tuition assistance packages are also available apart from School Choice. We don't want the cost of tuition to keep your children from the wonderful Christian education at our school.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL PRESENTS *THE LITTLE MERMAID*

All are invited to enjoy our talented Lutheran elementary school kids as they perform the ever-endearing musical performance *The Little Mermaid*. This fairy tale was written by the Danish author Hans Christian Andersen about a young mermaid who is willing to give up her life in the sea and her identity as a mermaid to gain a human soul. All performances will be presented on the Centennial Gym stage at the following times:

Wednesday, April 26 – 1:00 pm
Thursday, April 27 – 6:30 pm

Friday, April 28 – 6:30 pm
Saturday, April 29 – 6:30 pm



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

Empty – So We Can Be Full

This is the first Group Work for our new sermon series, Empty. How is it that life, though full of options and opportunities, leaves so many people feeling empty? It has something to do with our values and everything to do with the empty tomb of Easter.

1. It is an accepted axiom: “Voids get filled.”
 - Put this axiom into your own words.
 - What practical examples could you give to prove this axiom true?
 - What voids are you currently dealing with?
 - How could your small group help you?
2. The definition for *void* is, “a completely empty space.” Read Matthew 28:1-10.
 - What completely empty space is described in these verses?
 - Why would the angel say to the women, “Come and see?”
 - Why did the angel also say, “Go and tell.”
 - How did the news of the first Easter’s empty tomb fill a void in the hearts of the first followers of Jesus?
3. Read Colossians 3:1-4.
 - What will happen to you (it’s actually already accomplished) because of Christ’s empty tomb?
 - How does the empty tomb change your values?
 - Though believers in the resurrection, why is it still hard to “Set [our] minds on things above”?
 - What things do you/should you personally do to keep your head up?
4. The *Empty* sermon series will reflect on many of St. Paul’s seven core values: 1) mission outreach, 2) diversity in worship languages, 3) authentic care, 4) connecting people inside of community, 5) marriage and family, 6) generous, meaningful living, 7) ministry excellence.
 - How do these values flow out of the empty tomb?
 - Do these values address the emptiness in peoples’ lives today? Explain.
 - How do you see yourself plugging into St. Paul’s core values?

PRAY: Christ is alive! We live in Him! Freedom and joy where death had been.
Join as the dance of life begins! Hallelujah!

He took our sin, our death, our shame, Bearing the grief, the cross, the grave.
Risen in power, He lives to save. Hallelujah!

Daily within He sets us free, Dawn of a new reality, Promise of all that soon will be. Hallelujah!
Jesus will come and fill the skies. All who have lived in Him will rise.

O what a sight! Lift up your eyes! Hallelujah!

Ken Bible