

# Easter

April 1, 2018



# 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:** A staffed nursery is provided today 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. There is also 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 are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

## Christian Education

### St. Paul's Childcare Center

We offer a Christian childcare ministry for children six-weeks old through 3 years old. We will have openings in our infant room, beginning in September of 2018. Pregnant? Tell your spouse. Tell your parents. Then call our Childcare Center Administrator Kim Neubauer at 414-422-0320, ext. 200.

### School Registration for 2018-2019

Our 3K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Christian Elementary School is accepting registrations for the next school year. Call our School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons (414-422-0320, ext. 118) for a school tour or indicate interest on the Connection Card. We strive to make our Christian school affordable for every family. We participate in both the Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Parental Choice programs and we offer generous financial aid. Don't let financial concerns keep you from exploring this opportunity to help your child grow in their faith.

### Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

Kids Club is our vibrant ministry for youth on Sundays for age 3 to grade 8. All age levels meet in our school classrooms from 9:15 until 10:15 am. Kids Club resumes on Sunday, April 8. New participants are always welcome. Register any Sunday morning in the Trinity Café, directly across the parking lot from the church.

### Teen Ministry

TUG (Teens Under God) meets on Sunday evenings for Bible study and discussion about the issues that our high school students face. Want more information? Note it on your Connection Card.



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*EASTER SUNDAY*  
**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**  
April 1, 2018

**PRESERVICE**

**Easter Overture, Orchestra**  
*arr. by Lee Poquette*  
**Risen Lord, Handbells**  
*by Arnold B. Sherman*

**BELLS AND WELCOME**

**EASTER ACCLAMATION**

M Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

M You have made known to me the path of life;

C **you fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

M Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,

C **the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

M Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

**OPENING HYMN**

**Christ the Lord Is Risen Today**

*Congregation, Choir, Orchestra, Handbells, and Piano*

*Congregation and Choir*

*arr. by Brian Buda*

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!**

**Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!**

**Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!**

**Sing, ye heav'ns and earth, reply: Alleluia!**

*Choir*

*Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!*

*Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!*

*Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!*

*Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!*

*Alleluia!*

*Congregation and Choir*

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!**

**Foll'wing our exalted head, Alleluia!**

**Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!**

**Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

*Choir*

*Amen!*

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M** Let us pray.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Open our hearts so that all of us might believe the prophecies and witnesses that Jesus is alive. We ask this in Jesus' name because he lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

#### **THE WORD**

**M** Today we celebrate our Lord's resurrection victory over death and the grave---a victory that is a prelude to our own joyful resurrection in him. In our first reading, the Prophet Isaiah describes the vision of that day when the veil of death is lifted for all eternity. In the Epistle, the Apostle Paul describes death as the final enemy to be overcome for us in Christ. In the Gospel, Mark records the surprise the disciples met when they found Jesus' tomb was empty.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Isaiah 25:6-9**, Bible page 702  
*Jesus will swallow up death forever.*

#### **ANTHEM**

**Mercy Tree**

*Lydia Eiche, Congregation, Choir, Orchestra, and Piano  
by Michael Neale and Krissy Nordhoff*

*Soloist*

*On a hill called Calvary*

*Stands an endless mercy tree*

*Every broken weary soul*

*Find your rest and be made whole*

*Stripes of blood that stain its frame*

*Shed to wash away our shame*

*From the scars pure love released*

*Salvation by the mercy tree*

*Choir*

*In the spot between two thieves  
Hung the blameless Prince of Peace  
Beaten, battered, scarred, and scorned  
Sacred head pierced by our thorns  
It is finished was his cry  
The perfect Lamb was crucified  
His sacrifice, our victory  
Our Savior chose the mercy tree*

*Hope went dark that violent day  
The whole earth quaked at love's display  
Three days silent in the ground  
This body born for heaven's crown  
On that bright and glorious day  
When heaven opened up the grave  
He's alive and risen indeed!  
Praise him for the mercy tree!*

*Death has died, love has won  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Jesus Christ has overcome  
He has risen from the dead*

*One day soon, we'll see his face  
And every tear, he'll wipe away  
No more pain or suffering  
Praise him for the mercy tree*

*Death has died, love has won  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Jesus Christ has overcome  
He has risen from the dead*

*Congregation and Choir*

**Death has died, love has won  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Jesus Christ has overcome  
He has risen from the dead**

*Soloist*

*On a hill called Calvary  
Stands an endless mercy tree*

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

*Choir*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**Mark 16:1-8, Bible page 1022**

*The first visitors to the tomb find the surprise of Jesus' resurrection.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**My Redeemer Lives, Alleluia**

*Congregation, Choir, Brass, Handbells, and Organ*

*arr. by Lloyd Larson*

*Choir*

*Allelu, alleluia!*

*Sing allelu, alleluia!*

*Sing alleluia!*

*Congregation and Choir*

**I know that my Redeemer lives!**

**What joy this blest assurance gives!**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**He lives, he lives who once was dead;**

**He lives, my ever-living head!**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia!**

*Choir*

*He lives triumphant from the grave;*

*He lives eternally to save.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*He lives exalted, throned above;*

*He lives to rule his church in love.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Alleluia!*

*Congregation and Choir*

**Christ lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Savior, still the same.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
What joy this blest assurance gives;  
I know that my Redeemer lives!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia!**

*Choir*

*Allelu, alleluia!*

**THE MESSAGE**

**1 Corinthians 15:9-11, Bible page 1154**

*Pastor Peter Panitzke*

## **Be a Part of the Story**

**EASTER CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*Based on 1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

**M** Dear brothers and sisters, we remember the gospel that was preached to us, which we received and on which we have taken our stand. By this gospel we are saved, if we hold firmly to the word that was preached to us. Otherwise, we have believed in vain.

**C** **I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary. I believe that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. As the resurrected One, Christ Jesus is my living hope. Now he reigns as King and will come again to judge us all on the basis of faith in him alone. This is the saving faith that lives in me. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**Christ is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!**

*Choir, Orchestra, and Piano  
by Keith and Kristyn Getty*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M We thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for your victory over death. We praise you for revealing your victory through the inspired witnesses of your resurrection. Overcome our doubts and fears so that by faith we claim your victory as our own. By the power of the Holy Spirit we declare:

**I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living Head!**

M Lord Jesus, our ever-living Head, we come to you confident of your love and care. We pray for our nation, and especially our troops who are serving in harm's way that we may be safe. Protect them, grant success to their efforts, and bring them home to us safely. We pray for all who are sick or in any need (*special intercessions may be added*). By the power of the Holy Spirit we know that you live to help us in every need.

**He lives to bless me with his love;  
He lives to plead for me above.  
He lives, my hungry soul to feed;  
He lives to help in time of need.**

M Lord Jesus, we pray for your Church here on earth, that you might open our eyes to those in need around us. Open our lips to speak of the new life of forgiveness, joy, and hope that we have in you. We pray for all our missionaries who serve far from home, including our Mission Partner John Holtz in Malawi, Africa, and Dan Thiel in Costa Maya, Mexico.

**He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death.  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there.**

M Finally, Lord Jesus, we ask that you make our lives a song of praise to you. We join with our fellow Christians who have special reason to give you thanks today (*special intercessions may be added*). All this we pray confident that you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"**



## 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

### **See, What a Morning!**

*Congregation, Choir, Orchestra, and Piano  
by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend*

See, what a morning, gloriously bright,  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;  
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light,  
As the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"  
See God's salvation plan,  
Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,  
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man,  
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"  
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;  
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;  
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!  
The voice that spans the years,  
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,  
Will sound till He appears,  
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.  
Honor and blessing, glory and praise  
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority!  
And we are raised with Him,  
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;  
And we shall reign with Him,  
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

*Choir*

*And we shall reign with Him,*

*For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia!*

## CLOSING PRAYER

- M Father, thank you for this opportunity to share the hope your Son's resurrection brings. Change each of us so that others can see that hope by the way that we live. Give us words to speak hope into the lives of our family, friends, and co-workers this week. Bring us back to worship you again next week that we might grow in our understanding of this hope. Hear us, Father, for the sake of Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior.
- C **Amen.**

## EASTER BENEDICTION

M Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

POSTLUDE **Lift High the Cross**, *Orchestra*  
*arr. by Harry Switzer*

PRESIDING MINISTER *Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST / PIANIST *Darik Mischke*

PIANIST *Susan Gedemer*

BRASS ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR *Jill Mitchell*

HANDBELLS DIRECTOR *David Lemke*

ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR DIRECTOR *Michele Eiche*



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.

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# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of April 2, 2018

<b>MON</b>	10:00 am 7:00 pm	No Lutheran Elementary School – Easter Break Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Woodwind Rehearsal
<b>TUE</b>	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Muskego Spring Voting (Trinity Gym) <i>DivorceCare</i> (School Classroom 9) Premarital Enrichment Seminar (Church Library)
<b>WED</b>	9:30 am 12:00 pm	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room) Ladies Afternoon Fellowship (Grace Room)
<b>THURS</b>	6:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Quilting Fellowship (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Rehearsal
<b>SAT</b>	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men’s Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
<b>SUN</b>	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 1:00 pm 6:30 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Grace Room Bible Study Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Premarital Enrichment Seminar (Church Library) Teens Under God (Trinity Café and Gym)

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## HEAR AND SEE THE MESSAGE ONLINE!



- **Live Streaming:** Attend church remotely on Sundays at The Bridge at 10:15 am. Live streaming is available at [www.thebridgemuskego.org](http://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](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org) and [www.thebridgemuskego.org](http://www.thebridgemuskego.org). They are usually available Sunday evening for that same Sunday’s message.
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# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## HOSPITALIZED

Stephanie Brandt is at Froedtert. Norman Boye and Kate Werner and baby Greyson have been discharged from the hospital.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Sharon Dreyer, 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.

## ATTENDANCE

1337 attended last weekend's worship services.

## 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.

## 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. Contact Pastor Nate at [nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org) to register or mark the back of your Connection Card.

## MALAWI MISSION PARTNER COMMUNIQUE

The latest update from our Malawi mission partner is available 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. If you would like to give an offering towards the Malawi mission, mark your envelope, "Malawi Mission Partner," before placing it in the offering plate or donate online at [www.stpaulmuskego.org/give](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org/give).

## GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor John Brug, Ph.D., retired professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, in studying the beliefs and religious practices of Islam: political history, jihad, terrorism, and the role of women. The final lesson will offer suggestions for outreach to Muslims. As part of his doctoral studies, Professor Brug lived in the Middle East for a year. Attend in the Grace Room, Sundays at 9:15 am, April 8-May 6.

## MR. DAN RICK DECLINES CALL

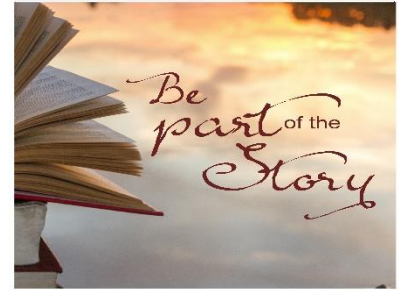
Mr. Dan Rick of St. John's in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, has informed us that the Lord has led him to decline the call to serve as our seventh grade homeroom and upper grade science teacher and athletic director. The Ministry Board will seek to call another suitable candidate on Tuesday, April 10.

# JOIN US AFTER EASTER

## ACT 2 – BE A PART OF THE STORY

Normally a man's death is the end of the story, but Jesus' burial at the close of Good Friday was just the end of Act I of his life. The time in the tomb was just an intermission.

On Easter the intermission ended and Act 2 began! Jesus' resurrection brings hope, forgiveness and the promise of a changed life.



If you are living in a "Good Friday" world, thinking your story is over, that your life will never change, and that you will never be good enough for God, *be a part of the story!*

Join us as we celebrate Act 2 of our lives because Jesus is alive!

"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 7, 8, 11**

**Transformed**

**Acts 1:1 – 11**

The ascended Jesus is sending every member of his Church on a mission to transform lives through the message of his forgiving love.

**April 14, 15, 18**

**Emboldened**

**Acts 2:1 – 47**

Peter's Act I was marked by a cowardly denial of Christ, but his Act II was filled with a courageous sermon that launched the church into the first century. Could you experience that same Act 2 change?

**April 21, 22, 25**

**Steadfast**

**Act 7:1 – 8:8**

God is at work in our suffering. This was the case in the early church. We trust it is true in our lives as well.

**April 28, 29, May 2**

**Qualified**

**Acts 9:1 – 20**

"Christian-killer" doesn't seem impressive on an apostle's resumé. Yet that is who Jesus chose to grow his Church. In the same way, you might consider yourself unqualified for the mission of Jesus' Church, but God loves to be glorified through unexpected servants.

**May 5, 6, 9**

**United**

**Acts 10:1 – 11:18**

**Confirmation Sunday**

The church is always threatened by divisions—race, income, gender, age, etc. God opened Peter's mind to the bigness of God's Church. Could God bring rich and poor, male and female, black and white, young and old into one community of faith today?

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE 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. Email Dr. Nelson at [jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org) if you are interested.

## TUG OPEN GYM APRIL 8



The next TUG is Sunday, April 8, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Come to the Trinity Gym and Café for open gym and free time of your choosing. Bring a game, bring food, whatever you enjoy. Contact Dr. Joel Nelson with questions at [jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org) or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.

## 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](mailto: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 2018? 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates - what high school? 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Learn how a powerful collection of essential oils can benefit your life. There will be a handout, power point presentation, and light refreshments. Please contact Karen Schram at [spirit.thing.kas05@hotmail.com](mailto:spirit.thing.kas05@hotmail.com) or (262) 232-7901 by April 8 to reserve your spot.

## ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL PRESENTS NIGHT AT THE WAX MUSEUM

All are invited to enjoy our talented Lutheran school kids as they perform *Night at the Wax Museum*.

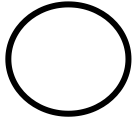
The hysterical meets the historical in this comic spoof about the wackiest wax museum you ever hope to visit! School has dismissed for the summer but not for five unlucky students, who have flunked their history class. They have to re-take the class and, much to their dismay, have to accompany their teacher to the Cultully Wax Museum to help set up displays.

The kids are not too keen on this idea, but the trip gets really interesting when all the figures come to life and start searching for an unknown treasure of great worth. Characters include Cleopatra, King Henry the VIII, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, and Blackbeard the pirate, just to name a few.

All performances will be presented on the Centennial Gym stage at the following times:

Wednesday, April 18 – 1:00 pm  
Thursday, April 19 – 7:00 pm

Friday, April 20 – 7:00 pm



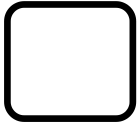
## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

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1. Was there a moment in the Easter service that you found especially moving? Share your experience with the group.
  
2. “It is just a story.” What makes the Easter story so hard to believe?
  
3. Read Acts 26:1-29.
  - a. How does Paul’s background make him a compelling witness to Jesus’ resurrection?
  
  - b. Paul makes his testimony in chains before the Roman governor. How does this make his witness to Jesus’ resurrection even more compelling?
  
  - c. How might you use this to help someone who doubts the Christian message?
  
4. Read I Corinthians 15:9-11. Paul admitted he didn’t deserve to be a witness to Jesus’ resurrection. Describe the impact of grace on Paul’s life and your own.
  
5. What is the key lesson you learned from the message and your reading this week? With whom will you share this news this week?
  
6. Break into groups of two or three to share prayer requests and pray together.



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

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## Be a Part of the Story

### I Corinthians 15:9-11, page 1154

1. **It is too late! The story ended long ago.**
  - a. The witnesses thought the story was over at the end of Act 1.
  - b. The witnesses were surprised when Act 2 began on Easter.
  
2. **It is too late! The story ended for me long ago.**
  - a. Only our Act 1 is over.
  - b. Act 2 begins “Today.”
  
3. **It is too late! I have nothing to add to the story.**
  - a. Jesus has Act 2 written for us.
  - b. Let’s find our part in Act 2 together.

### My Next Steps to Join the Story in Act 2!

**Carefully examine the witnesses:** Read the Gospel according to Luke this week. Luke wasn’t an eyewitness either, so he did the research so that “you may know with certainty the things you have been taught” (Luke 1:4). Stop by the Welcome Center to receive a Bible as our gift to you.

**Know you are part of the Story:** Daily read this passage until you know it by heart: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst” (1 Timothy 1:15).

**Understand your part in the Story:** A Bible study called *Following the Promise* will help you follow the promise of the Savior from the Garden of Eden to your own life. Check the Connection Card for more information. This study prepares you to become a member/partner of St. Paul’s and The Bridge.