

## BE A PART OF THE STORY

### ACT II

### STEADFAST

April 21, 22, and 25, 2018

*Stephen's murder is an example of faithfulness leading to suffering. Yet God was still at work in the suffering, bringing the gospel to new places. In the same way, we don't need to fear suffering and persecution, because we trust that Jesus' name makes great gains through our pains.*

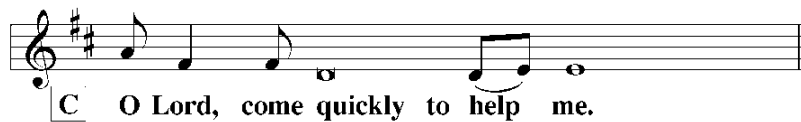
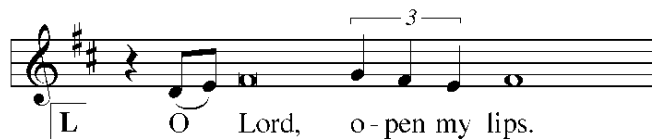
**PRESERVICE** (*Saturday*)

**Ode To Joy**, *Woodwinds*  
by *Ludwig Van Beethoven*

**BELLS AND WELCOME**

**HYMN 147**

**Like the Golden Sun Ascending**



①

Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,

②

let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;

③

come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,

*Repeat for use with canon*

come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

*Verses*

1. You are a great and a won - drous God,  
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,

cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.

You made the hills and the moun - tains high,  
You are the God whom we call our own,

*to Refrain*

you made the seas and the dry land.  
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

© 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Father God, through the suffering and death of your Son you lifted us up from death and despair.

C **Through his resurrection you have given us the priceless gift of hope.**

M Because he lives, we too will live.

C **Help us remain steadfast in this hope no matter what the tempter may send our way.**

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.

FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 5:1-4, Bible page 1223

*Peter encourages the leaders of the church to remain steadfast in their spiritual leadership serving as undershepherds of the Good Shepherd.*

PSALM OF THE DAY (Saturday, Sunday 7:45 am, Wednesday)

Psalm 23, Hymnal page 72

*God is steadfast. His goodness and love follow us all the days of our lives.*

ANTHEM (Sunday 9:15 am)

Open My Heart,

*St. Paul's School Junior Choir (Grades 5-8)*

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18, Bible page 1075

*Jesus is the Good Shepherd who will never abandon his sheep.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 358

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

SERMON

Acts 7:1-8:8, Bible page 1097

*Pastor David Kuehl*

CONFESSION OF FAITH



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.



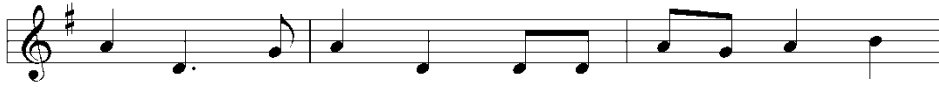
- Verses*
1. With the an - gels in heav - en,
  2. Cre - a - tor of all things, We praise you, we
  3. O Christ, King of glo - ry,



praise you, we praise you! With a - pos - tles and proph - ets,  
O Spir - it, most ho - ly, We  
You have ris - en to free us;



praise you! With the cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, We  
 O Je - sus Christ, the Son of God,  
 You be - came a man to set us free;



praise you, we praise you! With the mar - tyrs and your  
 To the Trin - i - ty most  
 And with all your saints in



ho - ly Church,  
 bless - ed, We sing in end - less praise! *to Refrain*  
 glo - ry, *to Refrain*  
*to Final Refrain*

**Final Refrain**



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise,



all cre - a - tion of - fers praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.

OFFERTORY (*Saturday*)

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Woodwinds**

*arr. by James Gilbert*

(*Sunday*)

**Worthy Is the Lamb, Brass Ensemble**

*by Handel*

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C **Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C **Drive out all doubt and gloom, that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

M Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

C **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

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

M Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

*Special prayers and intercessions.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

**C Alleluia! Thanks be to God! 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.**

HYMN 167, vv. 1-3, 5

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

#### CLOSING PRAYER

M Jesus, you came to us today as our Good Shepherd.

**C You have led us once again beside the quiet waters of Word.**

M Thank you for the much-needed assurance that your love and grace are always with us,

**C that you are watching over and protecting both us and our faith in you.**

M We bless you now and forevermore.

**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 *Darik Mischke*

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of April 23, 2018

<b>MON</b>	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	1:00 pm	Blood Drive (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> (Grace Room)
<b>TUE</b>	9:30 am	Ministry Growth Team Meeting
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	Ministry Board Meeting
	7:00 pm	Volleyball Open Gym
<b>WED</b>	9:00 am	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room)
	1:00 pm	<i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> (Faith Room)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
<b>THURS</b>	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:00 am	Quilting Fellowship (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	Pickleball Open Gym (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
<b>FRI</b>	8:15 am	Lutheran School Chapel Service (Main Church)
<b>SAT</b>	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
<b>SUN</b>	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	8:30 am	Following the Promise Bible Study (School Classroom 9)
	9:00 am	Open Forum (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 Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:30 am	Open Forum (Grace Room)
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	Open Forum (Faith Room)
12:00 pm	Called Worker Farewell Luncheon (Centennial Gym)	

---

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](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.
-

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## ST. PAUL'S HEARTBEAT

Please pick up your envelope in the church lobby that contains information about a "Cool Million." If you can't find one with your name and address, there will be unlabeled packets available as well. Thank you for prayerfully considering your part in celebrating the anniversary of our school building, the school itself, our church building, and The Bridge.



## A TITHE FOR MISSION PARTNERS

Our goal as part of a Cool Million is to tithe (give 10%) of our gifts to our mission partners.

Our former teacher, Dan Thiel, is serving at Costa Maya Ministries on the Yucatan Peninsula this year. He is coming home in May for a visit. We will try to schedule a time for those interested in traveling to this mission field to meet with him during this time. A Cool Million would help subsidize a new building for worship and ministry to the Costa Mayans.

A special gift to our Malawi Mission field will honor the many years Pastor John Holtz, a son of our congregation, has served as a missionary there.

Our sister congregation, Garden Homes Lutheran, is calling a new pastor and principal. A special gift from our congregation would give the new called workers the financial resources to consider new ministry initiatives.

Friends of China sends teachers of English to China. They work for and are paid by a Chinese school. Through the relationships built with the Chinese students, the teachers share their faith in Christ. A Cool Million would send 6 people to China for a year, paying for their transportation costs, insurance, and other incidentals.

## OPEN FORUMS AND ANNUAL MEETING

### The Messenger Distributed Next Week

Included in *The Messenger* will be reports from the Ministerial Team members, ministry plans for 2018-2019, the Financial Ministry Plan to be approved by the congregation, and several resolutions for distribution of Gift Trust Fund and Legacy Fund grants. Watch for an electronic copy of *The Messenger* in an email in the middle of the week.

### Open Forums and Annual Meeting

Join us at one of the open forums listed below to hear more about ministry plans for next year and to give us feedback on these plans.

- Sunday, April 29, at 9:15 am in Faith Room
- Sunday, April 29, at 10:45 am in Grace Room
- Sunday, April 29, at noon in Grace Room
- Thursday, May 3, at 7:00 pm in the Faith Room

The Ministry Board is scheduled to meet Thursday, May 10, if necessary, to adjust the proposed ministry plan as a result of these open forum discussions.

### St. Paul's Annual Meeting

The annual voters' meeting of the congregation will be Thursday, May 17, at 7:00 pm in the Grace Room. Business will include election of Ministry Board members, approval of the 2018-2019 Ministry Plan, and approval of Gift Trust Fund and Legacy Fund grants.

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## HOSPITALIZED

Stephanie Brandt is at Froedtert and Arleen Lutsch at Franklin Wheaton Franciscan. Betty Teisel is rehabbing at Tudor Oaks and Robert Zirbel at Linden Grove New Berlin. Robert Fox and Richard Smith 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

675 attended last week's worship services.

## JOIN US NEXT WEEK



Your story isn't over, your life can change, and in Christ you are good enough for God. Find out more as we continue to celebrate the Act II of our lives because Jesus is alive! Next week our theme is "Qualified," based on Acts 9:1 – 20. Even though you may feel unqualified for the mission of Jesus' Church, God loves to be glorified through unexpected servants. We will look at the life of Paul, a former killer of Christians, who Jesus chose to grow his Church.

## 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 on Sundays, 8:30-9:30 am, in school classroom 9, and beginning May 8, on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. Contact Pastor Nate at [nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org) or mark the back of your Connection Card to register and for further information.

## GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor John Brug, Ph.D., retired professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, in looking at 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, through May 6.

## GIVE BLOOD — HELP SAVE LIVES — MONDAY, APRIL 23

We will be hosting a blood drive on campus Monday, April 23, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm in the Grace Room. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). Walk-ins are always welcome as well. Thank you for your support of this important community event.

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY ANNUAL CONVENTION

Join 1000 voices in praising the Savior of the Nations at the LWMS annual convention in Green Bay June 21-24. Meet our church body's missionaries from Russia, India, Hong Kong, St. George, and Utah. Visit the convention website at [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org) for registration materials.



# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## **DIVINE CALLS**

Mr. Joshua Lepke is currently holding the call to serve as our 7th grade homeroom teacher and athletic director. Mr. Lepke serves as Dean of Behavior and Culture for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at St. Marcus in Milwaukee. Josh is married to Nicole with three kids (ages 13, 11, and 3).

On Sunday, April 15, Mr. Jeff Wetzal, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade co-teacher, received a divine call to serve as Dean of Students at Atonement Lutheran School in Milwaukee. This is a new position at Atonement.

Ms. Candy Stack, our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, informed us last week that she has decided to move to Kentucky together with her soon-to-be-husband at the end of this school year.

Therefore, on Tuesday, April 24, the Ministry Board will extend divine calls for a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, as well as a 4K teacher to fill the vacancy that will be left by Mrs. Kathy Bremer, whose husband, Skip, has accepted a call to Nebraska Lutheran High School.

Thank you for including these called workers and their families in your prayers.

## **FAREWELL LUNCHEON — SUNDAY, APRIL 29**

A farewell luncheon for Mrs. Bremer, Mrs. Loescher, Ms. Stack, and Mr. Walz is planned for noon on Sunday, April 29, in the Centennial Gym. A needs list has been sent out through *My St. Paul's* for those who would like to volunteer to help at the event or bring a dish to pass. A card box will be available at the luncheon for notes of appreciation and gifts. Please contact Wendy Hendrix at (414) 688-1472 or [wendylauber@yahoo.com](mailto:wendylauber@yahoo.com) with questions.

## **ST. PAUL'S CHILDCARE CENTER TEACHER'S AID OPENING**

St. Paul's childcare center is hiring a year-round teacher's aide, Monday - Friday, 7:00 am – 2:00 pm. Experience in childcare or a related field is preferred. We offer a competitive hourly wage and a pleasant working environment. Contact Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or [kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org) to apply. You may also stop by the childcare center located in the east wing of the church to pick up an application.

## **STONEY CREEK ADULT COMMUNITY JOB OPENING**

Stoney Creek Adult Community is looking for a creative, energetic, and compassionate person who has a heart for seniors. The part-time position mostly involves coordinating a balanced variety of activities for their community of residents. Contact Cindy at (414) 422-4686 to apply. More information about Stoney Creek may be found at [www.stoneycreekmuskego.com](http://www.stoneycreekmuskego.com)

## **ALTAR GUILD IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS**

Altar Guild members are a vital part of worship. They set up Communion for worship services and fulfil a number of other tasks to prepare the chancel area for worship. If you would like to help out, please contact Pastor Bonack at [jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org) or (414) 422-0320, ext. 119.

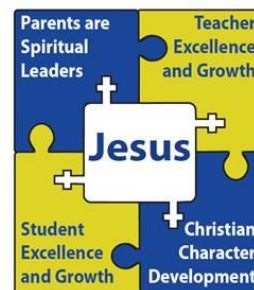
# ST. PAUL'S LOVES KIDS AND TEENS

## LUTHERAN PRE-K AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – ENROLL NOW

Our Pre-K enrollment is at 85 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 315 children enrolled in our 3K-8<sup>th</sup> grade school learning from a Christian worldview every day. What a blessing!

If you or someone you know would like more information about our school, please contact Mr. Fitzsimmons at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118. He would love to give you a tour and discuss the potential benefits of our school ministry for your family. You may also enroll directly at [www.stpmuskego.org/TADS](http://www.stpmuskego.org/TADS).

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



## 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.

## SUMMER CARE FOR AGES 3-10 AT ST. PAUL'S

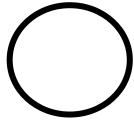
Our Lutheran school offers a summer care program for children in pre-kindergarten through grade 4 from May 29 through August 8. Cost is \$5 per hour. Registration forms are available at [www.stpmuskego.org](http://www.stpmuskego.org).

## TUG TALK – APRIL 22

The next TUG (Teens Under God) Talk is Sunday, April 22, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. We will continue our discussion of Joseph: Abandoned, Tested, Trapped, Promoted. Through a thought-provoking video, we'll see how the choices Joseph made impacted his life dramatically. Contact Dr. Joel Nelson with questions about Teens Under God at [jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org) or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.

## THE FINAL STRETCH FOR KIDS CLUB

Kids Club and Boost are in their final weeks before summer break. Parents are invited to attend on Sunday, May 20, when Kids Club will have closing activities to celebrate the year. Contact Dr. Nelson with questions about our children's ministry at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145, or [jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org).



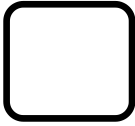
# GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

---

1. Share highs and lows from the past week with your group and begin your time together in prayer.
  
2. This week's message is about the theme of remaining steadfast even in the face of trials. Where in our world today do you see this theme present?
  
3. Read Stephen's message in Acts 6:8-15.
  - a. How would you describe Stephen based on what you read in these verses?
  
  - b. How would you respond if treated as Stephen was in these verses?
  
4. Have you ever been in a position where your faith in Christ threatened your well-being?
  
5. Read Acts 7:51-60
  - a. Do you think that Stephen knew his life was in danger as he spoke the words of 7:51-53?
  
  - b. Re-read Stephen's last words in 7:59-60. Does his steadfastness: 1) inspire and excite you or 2) make you a little nervous?
  
6. Do you think you are willing to die for Jesus?
  - a. If your answer is yes, what gives you confidence in that?
  
  - b. If your answer is no, what gives you doubts?
  
7. The challenge to dig deeper: Colossians 3:5 -- How does God call us to **die** for him even while we **live**?



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

---

## + Act II – The Rest of Your Story +

*Acts 7:1-8:8, Bible page 1097*

### Steadfast Like Stephen

#### A. In that we die like him

1. The Jews had p\_\_\_\_\_ and s\_\_\_\_\_ the b\_\_\_\_\_ of the prophets.
2. The Jews were g\_\_\_\_\_ of the very sins of which they accused Stephen.
3. Could it be that Jesus was Stephen's r\_\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_?
4. WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) vs. WDJS (What Does Jesus Say?)
5. Prescriptive vs. descriptive Scripture passages
6. The c\_\_\_\_\_ offers us no r\_\_\_\_\_ in this life.
7. The c\_\_\_\_\_ means that we put our e\_\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_\_\_ to death.

#### B. In that we live with him

1. Because of the promise of the r\_\_\_\_\_, both Stephen and Paul looked forward to their deaths.
2. The only way to attain to the resurrection and the life is by b\_\_\_\_\_ in J\_\_\_\_\_.
3. God gives us the resurrection and the life, free of charge, in H\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Stephen saw Jesus s\_\_\_\_\_ at the right hand of God.
  - a. to w\_\_\_\_\_ his steadfast servant home?
  - b. to s\_\_\_\_\_ him in his hour of trial?
  - c. to s\_\_\_\_\_ in j\_\_\_\_\_ over his enemies?
5. H\_\_\_\_\_ was just beyond death's door for Stephen, no farther than the a\_\_\_\_\_ are from us.

*"Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word" (Christian Worship 203).*