



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

EMPTY

EMPTY HOME?

Come to an Empty Tomb to be Filled

May 13, 14, and 17, 2017

*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.*

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 501

Our Father, by Whose Name

- M The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- M Brothers and sisters in Christ, through the prophet Isaiah the Lord says: "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" (*Isaiah 49:15*)
- C **With these words God expresses his faithfulness and great love for us.**
- M God calls us to love as he has loved us.
- C **"Whoever does not love," John says, "does not know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:8)**
- M These words cause us to examine our own hearts and lives and approach God in honesty. Join me as we make confession of our sins.
- C **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.**
- 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.**

LORD HAVE MERCY

M For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.



M The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

SONG OF PRAISE HYMN 581, vv. 1, 3

Father, We Praise You

Father, we praise you, now the night is over.
Active and watchful, standing now before you,
Singing, we offer prayer and meditation;
Thus we adore you.

All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;
Yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding
Through all creation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you
C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, through your powerful Word you form and shape what we think and believe.

C **Teach us to love what you command and to desire what you promise,**

M so that, as we toil through the changes and challenges of life,
C **our hearts may continually yearn for that day when you bring us to our real home in heaven.**

M We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 2:4-10, Bible page 1221

We are God's chosen people, being built into a spiritual house of living stones.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

John 14:1-12, Bible page 1081

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Knowing and trusting in him, we have every spiritual blessing.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Sunday 7:45 am*)

(*Sunday 9:15 am*)

Love of God,
Lutheran Elementary School Grades 3 and 6
Be Thou My Vision, Maria Schultz

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 8.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 500
367

For Christian Homes, O Lord, We Pray
Christ Be My Leader

THANKSGIVING

C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.

He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER *(Sunday) Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Darik Mischke*

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

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

We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. Following the Promise is currently being held on Tuesday evenings in the Faith Room with a new class beginning May 23. Register on the back of your Connection Card.

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

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

Your Ministerial Staff

Office (414) 422-0320

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbbonack@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0501
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons	Ext. 118	sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Pastor David Kuehl	Ext. 121	dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org	(262) 679-1393
Mr. Dan Lippert, BA	Ext. 120	dlippert@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 232-4458
Mr. Phil Loescher	Ext. 123	ploescher@stpaulmuskego.org	(262) 305-8769
Dr. Joel Nelson	Ext. 145	jnelson@stpaulmusekego.org	(414) 422-0320
Pastor Peter Panitzke	Ext. 122	ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 350-1436
Mrs. Sally Wallner	Ext. 294	swallner@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of May 15, 2017

MON	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) <i>The Story Bible Study</i> (Grace Room)
TUE	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Ministerial Team Meeting Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library) Dorcas Society Meeting (Grace Room) Handbell Rehearsal
WED	4:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes Chapel Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am 10:00 am 6:45 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Stoney Creek Bible Study (Stoney Creek Adult Community) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice Annual Voters' Meeting (Grace Room)
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service Traditional Worship Service Grace Room Bible Study Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

CONFIRMANDS

This year's 35 youth confirmands will be communing this weekend for the first time with their families.

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

If you have small children (4 years old and younger), 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. The nursery closes 10 minutes after the service, so please pick your child up promptly.

BAPTISMS

Mario Joseph Thomas Weber, born August, 1, 2008, Samiyrah Marion May Weber, born January 28, 2010, and Naiyelli Elizabeth June Weber, born February 20, 2012 were baptized in a private ceremony on Monday, May 8. Mario, Samiyrah, and Naiyelli are the children of Tom Weber and Tracy Loken-Weber. We rejoice in the saving faith given to Mario, Samiyrah, and Naiyelli.

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home and Norman Miller at Mukwonago Linden Court. Stephanie Brandt is at Froedtert and Richard Krebs at St. Luke's. Lois Guhr has returned to Muskego Regency. Samantha Lindner and baby Aria Kay, Nancy Rindfleisch, and Kay Ross have been discharged from the hospital.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: James Beyer, Mary Ann Boldt, Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Jodie Crosby, Sharon Dreyer, Shelly Eggert, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Connie Johnson, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Marvin Pellmann, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Jake Strande.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

1293 attended worship services last week.

FLOWERS

The flowers beautifying the altar today are given in celebration of Greg and Judy Schmidt's 30th wedding anniversary on May 9. May God bless Judy and Greg with many more years together in Christ.

BAKERY TO CELEBRATE MOTHERS AND OUR BLESSINGS

A member of St. Paul's is providing fresh bakery for everyone this week after all Sunday services. This special treat is to celebrate Mother's Day, as well as all the blessings that come to us through God's Word and our faithful study of it. Enjoy and be thankful for your mother and God's Word in your life.

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING – THURSDAY

The annual voters' meeting will be Thursday, May 18, at 7:00 pm, in the Grace Room. At this meeting the \$3.5 million annual ministry plan will be presented for approval, as well as three resolutions to amend the bylaws and seven resolutions to designate grants from the Gift Trust Fund and Legacy Fund. Elections will be held for four positions on the seven-member Ministry Board, the congregation's governing board. A copy of the ministry plan, the resolutions, nominations, and staff reports are in the *Messenger at the Welcome Center*. If you have any comments or concerns, please share them as soon as possible with Pastor Panitzke at (414) 350-1436 or President Neal Wallner at (414) 419-2168.

EASTER EVERY SUNDAY

This Easter 2071 people gathered to worship the risen Christ with us at St. Paul's. Many members whom we hadn't seen for a long time came back to a hug from their pastors. Family members and friends gathered with us. People from our community came to worship.

Easter is every Sunday! Every Sunday we go back to the empty tomb and celebrate that our Savior rose victorious from the grave.

Wouldn't it be great if Easter were every Sunday? Wouldn't it be great every week to see 2071 people we know and love and so many new people finding hope and encouragement and forgiveness with us?

"Easter is every Sunday" can be our worship target. Dr. Paul Borden, a well-known church consultant, encourages congregations to view "the Easter attendance... as the congregation's potential for growth." Your Ministerial Team will seek to contact every teen and adult in our congregation with this message this summer.

Our requests of you...

- **Commit** to worship every week this summer, either at our weekend services, at our 7:00 pm Wednesday service, or online (www.stpaulmuskego.org).
- **Invite** your St. Paul's family to join you in this commitment and invite others to worship with you.
- **Pray** that the Lord of the Church would pour out his Holy Spirit upon us so that we see worship attendance climb throughout the summer, culminating in an August 6 Picnic Sunday that sees worship attendance rival our Easter attendance.

ORDINARY PEOPLE—EXTRAORDINARY GOD

God has always done extraordinary things through ordinary people like us. Gideon looked less than ordinary. He was filled with doubts and fears. Yet God used this man as a powerful tool in his hand to rescue his people. Are you worried by the challenges your family and God's church face today? Will you be a worrier or a warrior? The God who changed Gideon can change us!



May 21

Gideon's Gig (Ascension)

Judges 6:1-24

A worrier becomes a mighty warrior.

May 28

Gideon's Gambit (Memorial Day)

Judges 6:25-32

The first battle for a mighty warrior is the battle in our own hearts. Gideon smashes the family altar. What personal altar will I have to smash to become the Lord's warrior?

June 4

Gideon's Guerillas (Pentecost Sunday)

Judges 6:33-7:25

A few good men or one good Lord? God uses a handful of warriors to win a great victory. It happened in Gideon's day. It happened on Pentecost. It happens yet today!

June 11

Gideon's Gaffe (Trinity Sunday)

Judges 8:22-35

Gideon (inadvertently) makes an idol. Throughout history no one in his right mind tried to lead the church astray. But, in the midst of dealing with turmoil, it happened. What idol(s) have we inadvertently made today?

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

THE FIRST STEP: CLOTHED IN CHRIST IN BAPTISM

Our first step toward a stronger faith is a one-hour personal visit and study on baptism. Schedule this First Step visit with Pastor Pete by marking the Connection Card.

THE SECOND STEP: FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BEGINS TUESDAY, MAY 23

God was planning for you before the creation of the world. God's first promise to you is found in the first chapters of the Bible. In this 13-week study, we follow that promise through the Bible and see how it impacts our lives. This also serves as a preparation-for-membership Bible study. Register with Pastor Pete or on the Connection Card.

THE THIRD STEP: WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE NEXT FALL

Jesus said, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). We Christians want to know "every word that comes from the mouth of God," but the Bible is an imposing book with so many characters and covering so much time. The third step in our core curriculum is a 30-lesson course taught every year to help you become more familiar with the Bible and prepare you for a life-time of Bible reading and spiritual growth. Minimum class size is 50 people; maximum is 70 people. The time of the study is yet to be determined. Express your interest on the Connection Card.

NEW GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

Jesus Christ is the true center of our salvation. Because of his death and resurrection, we have the promise of eternal life with him. Since Christ first loved us in this way, it is now our joy to take up our own crosses daily and follow him. Join Mr. Jon Eiche as he leads the study *The Theology of the Cross* on Sundays, May 14 through July 9, at 9:15 am in the Grace Room. This study is based on the excellent book of the same name written by retired WELS Professor Daniel Deutschlander.

PRAYER WARRIOR TEAM

Be a part of our Prayer Warrior Team. Receive prayer requests via email about once per week. To find out more information and to indicate interest, mark the back of your Connection Card.

CHAPEL CHOIR

Do you love to sing? Join the St. Paul's Chapel Choir! The Chapel Choir sings for worship about once a month and meets for rehearsal on Wednesdays for about an hour at 6:30 pm in the Faith Room. Any questions can be directed to Pastor Jeffrey Bonack at jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org or Darik Mischke at (920) 344-2330.

VOLUNTEER AT SOEL HOT LUNCH

Have fun making the little ones their simple lunch at SOEL, our School of Early Learning. Mondays and Fridays from 10:45 am until noon are needed. Pick one or both days if desired. Hiring bonus: extra hugs and lots of chocolate! Please contact SOEL Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org to indicate interest or to find out more information.

THE FINAL STRETCH FOR KIDS CLUB AND BOOST

Parents are invited to attend on Sunday, May 21, when both Kids Club and Boost will close out the year with special activities. Boost will also engage in reflection and evaluation of the past year and teen ministry at St. Paul's. Contact Dr. Nelson with questions about our children's ministry at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145 or jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.

GIFTS TO GOD

WISH LIST

Wish List items are above and beyond our budgeted expenses. If you would like to contribute, clearly mark your gift "Wish List." You may also give online at www.stpaulmuskego.org.

Item	Est. Cost	Received	Still Needed
School Exterior Window Replacements	\$55,000	\$151	\$54,849
Trinity Gym Floor to Ceiling Room Divider	\$13,000	\$765	\$12,235
Permanent Wall Addition to School	\$5,600	\$1,982	\$3,618
Chairs for Church Lobby	\$3,200	\$1,845	\$1,355
<i>The Power of the Praying Parent</i> Father's Day Gift	\$2,000	\$1,625	\$375

SUMMER WINDOW REPLACEMENT!

We have already received \$44,000 to replace the windows for the four classrooms on the east side of the school building. This leaves just 2 classrooms and the Centennial Gym to be funded at a cost of \$55,000. If all windows are replaced at the same time, we will be given a significant discount.

POWER OF THE PRAYING PARENT FATHER'S DAY GIFT

In connection with Father's Day, we will be mailing postcards to the community with the offer: "All parents will receive a free gift: *The Power of a Praying Parent*." The cost of a book is \$5 each. This Wish List item will cover the cost of this gift that offers support to parents. If sufficient gifts are received, we could expand this gift to every school parent/Kids Club parent in the fall of 2017.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

This fund provides our members with an opportunity to encourage continuing education through special gifts. Through the government's Title II funds and our congregational budgeting process, we provide for the professional development of our teachers, but there are more workshops and courses that our teachers would like to attend. Our goal is to provide an additional \$500 per teacher or \$7000 per year. Gifts of \$2,234.33 have been given to date. If you would like to contribute, mark your gift clearly, "Teacher Professional Development Fund."

ONLINE GIVING

If you bank and pay bills online, consider giving online: 20% of offerings are already given online. Go to StPaulMuskego.org and click the St. Paul's Online Offerings tab on the right sidebar of the home page or use the QR code at right.



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

CALLED WORKERS CELEBRATING MILESTONE YEARS OF SERVICE

The Worker Care Committee invites the congregation to celebrate the blessing of faithful called workers. At the 6:30 pm Graduation Service on Friday, May 26, we will recognize milestone years of ministry for the following members of our teaching staff:

Ms. Linda Martens - 40 years in ministry
Mrs. Sue Kuehl - 15 years at St. Paul's
Mr. Justin Walz - 15 years in ministry
Mrs. Anne Meyer - 15 years in ministry all at St. Paul's

We would also like to wish a special farewell to Mrs. Samantha Lindner and much happiness on her and her husband's little blessing, Aria Kay, born Friday, May 5.

ST. PAUL'S TEENS TO EMBARK ON SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Seven of our St. Paul's teens will embark on mission trips this summer in cooperation with Wisconsin Lutheran High School's *Share the Mission* program: Megan Ludke and Morgan Dunn to Colorado Springs, CO; Katie Lunow and Noah Petraske to Eagle, CO; Aaron Miller to Bozeman, MO; Alex Bremer to Spokane, WA; and Grace Beyer to Austin, TX. Various outreach projects will be accomplished to help spread the gospel to the people in these areas. Financial support is needed for transportation, living expenses, and supplies. You may support our teens by donating to "Share the Mission" at www.wlhs.org or by picking up a *Share the Mission* flyer at the Welcome Center in the church entry.

UNDER THE CANOPY HOSTS

Under the Canopy is a time of fellowship after Sunday services during the summer months in which coffee and snacks are served at the outside entrance to the church. Available dates for this summer's Under the Canopy are June 18, July 2, July 16, July 23, and August 20. This is a great chance to share information about your organization with the congregation while meeting new people. Please contact David Weise at (262) 271-3093 or dweise@aol.com to reserve your date.

GRADUATES – SHARE YOUR PLAN

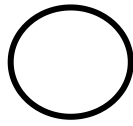
St. Paul's will be celebrating our class of 2017 teens who are graduating from junior and senior high school. Please forward your plans for after graduation as soon as possible to jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.

LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT

Who do you know has children of school age who might be interested in our school? Our School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons would be happy to give you or a friend or relative a tour. Our congregation provides generous tuition assistance. We don't want anyone's choice about attending our Christian school simply to be a financial decision. Schedule a time to speak to Mr. Fitzsimmons by emailing him at sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org.

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 31 through August 12. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center or at www.stpmuskego.org.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

Home Is Where...

1. React to these quotes:
 - “A house is built of logs and stones, of tiles and posts and tiers; a home is built of loving deeds that last a thousand years.”
 - “A broken home is the world’s greatest wreck.”
 - “A Christian home is earth’s sweetest picture of heaven.”
 - “A home is the place where, when you go there, they have to take you in.”

2. What about your own home/home life (past or present) causes you to rejoice? What about it causes regret?

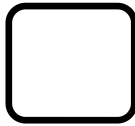
3. Good, bad, or indifferent, everyone is a “product” of family and home.
 - How does this square with Matthew 8:20?
 - Could the theme for this sermon, “Empty Home”, apply to Jesus? Explain.

4. Read John 14:1-3.
 - How does knowing that Jesus speaks these words to his disciples shortly before his very own death bring new insights into the depth of Christ’s love for them (and us)?
 - How might Jesus’ words, “I am going there to prepare a place for you” reassure the disciples a) about Jesus’ future, and b) about their own future?
 - What words from this section of Scripture are more comforting and exciting than the words, “I am going there to prepare a place for you”?
 - Be honest...are you really looking forward to heaven? Explain.

5. Read John 14:4-6.
 - Thomas’ question is not unlike what empty people are asking today. Why do so many people reject the answer Jesus gives?
 - What corollary answers does the world (and sometimes even the church) tack on?
 - Why are these “yes, but...” additions so dangerous?
 - Why is the empty tomb the only answer for the empty heart, empty hand, empty life, and empty home?

6. Read 1 Peter 2:4-10.
 - How do these words about house, stones, and cornerstone make you feel?
 - What’s the reason you have been added to the “people of God” as a chosen, royal, and holy member?
 - What does fulfilling this “family” obligation actually look like for you in real time?
 - What could your small group do to reach empty hearts, hands, lives, and homes in our community?

PRAY Dear Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit, fill my heart with hope, my hands with contentment, my life with purpose, and my home with peace. Let the empty tomb be my constant reassurance of your grace and my motivation to share you with others. In Jesus I pray, Amen.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Empty Home?

Come to an Empty Tomb to be Filled

John 14:1-6, page 1081

“A Place for You”

1. **Celebrate a home filled with _____**
 - a. A home filled with service. (John 13:1-17)
 - b. A home filled with Christian witness. (John 13:34-35)

2. **Prepare for a home filled with _____**
 - a. Pain from pride. (John 13:18-30, 37-38)
 - b. Pain from separation. (John 13:33)

3. **Claim a home filled with _____.**
 - a. A place where you belong. (John 14:1-3)
 - b. A place guaranteed. (John 14:6)

My Next Steps

- **Memorize this promise that, no matter what your home life is like, there is a place for you:** “In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:2-3 NIV¹⁹⁸⁴)

- **See what Jesus is doing for you now.** Next weekend we will celebrate Jesus’ ascension. Prepare for this special day by seeing how Jesus is preparing a place in heaven for you:
 - by living to intercede like a Priest for you (1 John 2:1-2)
 - by providing for His Church (Ephesians 4:7-16)
 - by ruling as King for His Church (Ephesians 1:18-23)