



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

ASCENSION SUNDAY
ORDINARY PEOPLE - EXTRAORDINARY GOD
WARRIOR OR WORRIER?
May 20, 21, and 24, 2017

A worrier becomes a mighty warrior. Isn't that just the way God works!

PRESERVICE (*Sunday*)

Thine Is The Glory, Handbells
by George F Handel, arr. by Margaret Tucker

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 175

(Sunday)

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

Chapel Choir sings vv. 1, 3, and 5

BAPTISM (*Sunday 9:15 am*)

Hymnal page 12

Harper Danielle Bankenbusch

Brooklyn Paige Bankenbusch

Daughters of Brian and Kristina Bankenbusch, born March 3, 2017

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M On the day of Christ's ascension the angels said to the disciples, "Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven"(Acts 1:11).

C **O Lord, we long for your returning, when you will take us to be with you forever.**

M Beloved in the Lord, let us prepare our hearts for the day of Christ's return with true repentance and confession of our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of Jesus, our risen and ascended Lord, to grant us forgiveness.

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.**

LORD HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

HYMN 169, vv. 1 and 3

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Throughout the ages, Lord, you commissioned your people to carry out your saving will. At the time of the judges you personally asked Gideon to go forth and conquer the Midianites:

C **"Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand"(Judges 6:14).**

M Lord Jesus, when the time had fully come, you kept the Law perfectly and bore the complete punishment for our sins through your death and resurrection. Before you ascended into heaven, you commissioned us, ordinary people, to be your witnesses:

C **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"(Mark 16:16).**

M Jesus, you never leave your people on their own as they carry out your will. You promise to be with them and clothe them with the power of your Holy Spirit:

C **“And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).**

M Today, as we study your word, send us your Holy Spirit. Draw us even closer to you and your words of truth. Renew our resolve to follow you.

C **Open our ears to hear and our hearts to trust your promises and words of salvation, that we may be equipped to carry out your great commission.**

M We pray in your name, Jesus. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11, Bible page 1090

Jesus ascends into heaven the triumphal victor over sin and death.

PSALM OF THE DAY 47 (Saturday and Wednesday)

Hymnal page 85

God has ascended amid shouts of joy.

ANTHEM (Sunday)

Rejoice the Lord Is King, Chapel Choir

GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53, Bible page 1061

Before his ascension, the risen Lord Jesus commissions his disciples to carry his life-changing gospel to the world.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

HYMN OF THE DAY 419, vv, 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7

If God Himself Be for Me

SERMON

Judges 6:1-24, Bible page 243

Pastor David Kuehl

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Saturday*)
(*Sunday*)

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled, *Joel Nelson*
Lord, I Lift Your Name on High, *Handbells*
by Rick Founds, arr. by Arnold Sherman

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Jesus, our ascended Lord, you remain the head of the Church. But you are no longer physically with us.

C **On this earth, Christ, you have no body here, but ours.**

M Help us take seriously our privileged responsibility of sharing the gospel. As we carry out your great commission bless us as you blessed Gideon, the mighty warrior, in his gig against the Midianites.

C **May we use our entire being to reach out with the one thing needful to a starving world of lost souls.**

M Help us to see the physical and emotional needs of those less fortunate and come to their aid, that they may know they have a God who loves them.

C **May our eyes show your compassion.**

M Help us to light the path for those who still walk in darkness, that they may know right from wrong according to your Holy Word.

C **May our feet walk in your ways.**

M Help us to humbly serve others, attending to their needs, comforting the weak in spirit bruised by this sin-stained world.

C **May our hands reach out to all with your love.**

M Almighty God, do not let self-doubts or worries stand in our way of serving you. Give us and all servants of your Word courage to proclaim the good news of Jesus, no matter the circumstance. Like Gideon, help us to defy the odds, trusting that by your might all things are possible.

C **May our mouths speak the truths of your saving gospel. Send your Holy Spirit to touch the hearts all those in our area of influence.**

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M Dear Father, keep us faithful and true until the day of our own ascension when we will join you in your glorious home in heaven.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

CLOSING HYMN 173

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

CLOSING PRAYER

M Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

M The LORD spoke words of peace to Gideon and sent him on his way. Jesus lifted his nail-scarred hands and blessed his disciples with peace as he ascended into heaven. Now hear the words of peace the Lord has for you.

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 (*Saturday*) *Betty Bilitz*

(*Sunday and Wednesday*) *Darik Mischke*

Your Ministerial Staff

Office (414) 422-0320

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbouack@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0501
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons	Ext. 118	sfztsimmons@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
Dr. Joel Nelson	Ext. 145	jnelson@stpaulmusekgo.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



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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of May 22, 2017

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
TUE	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Pastoral Circuit Meeting at St. Paul's, East Troy
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	New <i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study
WED	4:30 pm	Public School Catechism Instruction Classes
	6:30 pm	Chapel Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:45 pm	Stoney Creek Bible Study (Stoney Creek Adult Community)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI	8:30 am	Lutheran Elementary Closing Service (Main Church)
	11:00 am	Lutheran Elementary School Dismissal
	6:30 pm	8 th Grade Graduation Service (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion

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



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

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.

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home. Stephanie Brandt is at Froedtert and Richard Krebs at St. Luke's. Marlene Sobczak has transferred to Linden Grove Mukwonago.

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.

FUNERALS

Betty J. Worachek, born August 8, 1927, entered eternal life with her Savior on May 12, 2017 and received a Christian funeral on May 15, 2017.

Norman C. Miller, born November 18, 1939, entered eternal peace with his Savior on May 12, 2017 and received a Christian funeral on May 18, 2017.

May God grant peace and comfort to the loved ones of Betty and Norman.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

1100 attended worship services last week.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING TO CALL RESIDENT MISSIONARY – JUNE 4 AT NOON

As a result of a grant from the Antioch Foundation and special gifts from members, we are able to add a fourth pastor position called "resident missionary." A copy of the position description is at the Welcome Center. You may suggest names for the call list to Pastor Panitzke until May 24. Provide him the name and a brief description why you feel that pastor would fit the position of resident missionary.

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 - 16 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.

UNDER THE CANOPY HOSTS

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.

EASTER EVERY SUNDAY

Wouldn't it be great every week to see 2071 people we know and love find hope and encouragement and forgiveness with us? That's what happened on Easter here at St. Paul's. Wouldn't it be great if Easter were every Sunday?

"Easter 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."

"Easter Every Sunday"? 2071 in attendance? Impossible!

- Impossible just like it was impossible for a worrier like Gideon to be changed into a mighty warrior.
- Impossible just like it was impossible for the Midianite army to be defeated by 300 men.

In the next month, we are going to see that our God can do the impossible. We'll spend a month walking in Gideon's shoes and see what can happen when you trust God's Word: "The LORD is with you mighty warrior" (Judges 6:12).

Easter Every Sunday... Celebrate!

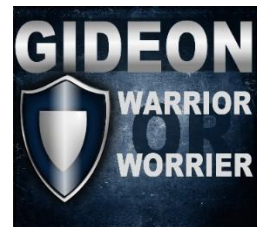
Every week we want to celebrate an answer to prayer and the power of an invitation. This past week, Pastor Panitzke and Mr. Fitzsimmons visited with a school mom going through some tough times that have resulted in her not attending worship regularly. With tears in her eyes she shared some of her burdens. We prayed together that she would be able to lead her family to come and hear of God's love. Praise God! She worshiped on Sunday... an answer to prayer!

Easter Every Sunday... What can you do?

- **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. We are handing out invitation cards today to help 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 28 **Gideon's Gambit (Memorial Day)** **Judges 6:25-32**

June 4 **Gideon's Guerillas (Pentecost Sunday)** **Judges 6:33-7:25**

June 11 **Gideon's Gaffe (Trinity Sunday)** **Judges 8:22-35**

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.

GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

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.

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.

VOLUNTEER AT SOEL HOT LUNCH

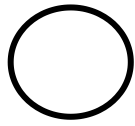
Have fun making the little ones their simple lunch at SOEL, our School of Early Learning. Mondays and Fridays from 10:45 am until noon are needed. Pick one or both days if desired. Hiring bonus: extra hugs and lots of chocolate! Please contact SOEL Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or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

LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT

Our School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons would be happy to give you or a friend or relative a tour of our school and answer any questions you might have. Our congregation provides generous tuition assistance. Don't let your choice about attending our Christian school simply be a financial decision. Schedule a time to speak to Mr. Fitzsimmons by emailing him at sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org.

THE BRIDGE MOVES FOR ONE SUNDAY – JUNE 4

The Trinity Gym floor will be refinished beginning immediately after school is out. We won't be able to use the Trinity Gym on June 4, so we'll move The Bridge to the Centennial Gym. Communion service will be at 9:45 am and worship at 10:15 am. All doors of the building will be open for your convenience that Sunday.



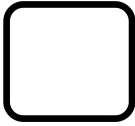
GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

Ordinary People - Extraordinary God

1. Who is one of your personal heroes? Does he/she have both hero and anti-hero qualities?
2. Over the next four weeks, this message series will unpack who Gideon was as a warrior *and* a worrier. Which of these two qualities - warrior or worrier - are you more curious about and why?
3. Gideon had good reason to worry (6:1-6). But instead of sending a deliverer immediately, God sends a prophet (6:7-10). Can you think of other times in Scripture when God made the people wait for deliverance? Why would he do that?
4. Read Judges 6:12-16. Gideon sure is full of "pardon me's," isn't he?
 - What is your initial reaction to witnessing him question God?
 - Is it okay to question God? Why or why not?
 - How is "The LORD is with you!" (6:12, 16) God's answer to our "pardon me's?"
5. "Go in the strength that you have." (6:14) Share a time in your life when you learned that you had more strength in God and from God to face a challenge that you at first thought was impossible to face.
6. Read Psalm 46.
 - Which of the 11 verses do you draw the most strength and comfort from?
 - Think about your plans for the next seven days. Where in that schedule do you predict it would help you to hear this verse again as a way to overcome worry?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Judges 6:1-24 (Pew Bible page 243)

Ordinary People – Extraordinary God + Gideon's Gig +

Introduction: Heroes or anti-heroes? Warriors or worriers?

1. Why did it take the Israelites seven years to call to God for help? P_____
2. The Lord's first move was to send a s_____ rather than a military s_____.
3. Just like the Israelites, when we are in trouble, we tend to do two things:
 - We b_____ God (or someone else).
 - We try to work things out on our o_____.
4. The Angel of the Lord, often the Son of God in the Old Testament, appears to Gideon...
 - Who is threshing wheat in a w_____
 - Who isn't out in the o_____ with oxen, which was the common and most efficient practice
 - Who doesn't want a Midianite s_____ to take his wheat
 - Whom the Angel of the Lord calls "m_____ w_____"
5. The Angel of the Lord and Gideon have a conversation.
 - Gideon's expresses his d_____.
 - The Lord responds with a word of g_____. (Aha! God can handle our doubts.)
 - Gideon questions his i_____.
 - The angel promises God's p_____ and p_____. (Aha! It's not what you know but who you know that counts.)
6. Gideon's requests a sign.
 - Gideon prepares a m_____.
 - The Angel of the Lord waits p_____. (Aha! God has all the time in the world for you.)
 - Fire from the angel's staff c_____ the food, and then he d_____.
 - Gideon laments that he is going to d_____.
7. The angel assures Gideon, "P_____! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."
8. Gideon builds an altar of memorial and names it: "The L_____ Is P_____."
9. When you want a sign from God, remember that you have one: the c_____.

Conclusion: Be at peace, mighty warriors; the Lord is indeed with you.

My Next Steps

Read Judges 6:25-32 in preparation of next week's message on *Gideon's Gambit*.

Memorize Judges 6:14 – "Go in the strength you have... Am I not sending you?"

Marvel in the strengths God has given you and put them to use in his kingdom.