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ORDINARY PEOPLE - EXTRAORDINARY GOD

SAMSON: WHEN STRONG MEN ARE WEAK

June 2, 3, and 6, 2018

Samson was incredibly strong physically, but incredibly weak spiritually. Even more incredible is that God could use a man like that to accomplish his purpose. God grant us humility and hope as we look at Samson's life.

PRESERVICE HYMN-SING

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 232

Lord of My Life, Whose Tender Care

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.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, God has called us to live with integrity:

C **Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.** (Philippians 4:8)

M Yet we allow ourselves to be influenced by the immoral world in which we live. Conscious of our weakness and God's just anger, we humble ourselves before him and confess our sin.

All **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

SONG OF PRAISE

Oh, Taste and See

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we are weak, but you are strong.

C **Help us to acknowledge where we are weak and need your help.**

M Teach us to lean more heavily on your forgiving love

C **and to look to you, your Word, and your sacraments for the strength and guidance we need to live as your redeemed and holy children.**

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

C: A - men.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Bible page 1165

As Paul wrestles with his personal thorn in the flesh, he is reminded that God is glorified through his weakness and struggle.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 1, Hymnal page 64

Lord, help us sink our roots deeply into the streams of your living water.

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8, Bible page 1081

We can do nothing good apart from Jesus.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY 464

Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory

SERMON

Judges 14:1-20, Bible page 253

Pastor Peter Panitzke

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Dear heavenly Father, you created Adam and Eve for each other and gave them children.

C **We praise you for blessing us and all people through families.**

M We thank you for protection, shelter, food, clothing, love, guidance, education, and especially the opportunity to share with one another the true and saving faith.

C **Give us patience, understanding, and love in all family interactions. Give us joy and delight in our homes and relationships.**

M Help fathers and mothers provide not only for the physical and material needs of their children but also for their emotional and spiritual needs.

C **Bless the efforts of churches, relatives, and friends as they encourage and support families.**

M Lead our government officials to consider the needs of children in all the laws that they pass and enforce.

C **Help us all show love to the elderly and concern for their needs.**

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M We thank you for making us members of your family of believers through Baptism.

C **Help us live as your children, secure in your love.**

M In Jesus' name we pray.

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 462

Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways

CLOSING PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELS CONNECTION

MULTI-SITE TO REACH MORE PEOPLE

The leadership of St. Paul's continues to pray for multi-site opportunities in the Milwaukee area to reach more people for Christ. Consider attending the National Multi-Site conference November 12-14 in Pewaukee.

PRESIDING MINISTER (Sunday) Pastor David Kuehl

ORGANIST Carol Nelson



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 June 4, 2018

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
TUE	9:30 am	Ministerial Growth Team Meeting
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise Bible Study (Faith Room)</i>
WED	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	1:30 pm	Paul Scruggs, Jr., / Sheena Faherty Wedding Vows Renewal (Off Campus)
	3:00 pm	Sharon Poplawski / Leon Visintainer Wedding (Main Church)
	3:30 pm	Luke Christopherson / Ashley Bechard Wedding (Off Campus)
	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
	5:00 pm	Awake and Alive (Trinity Café and Gym)

** Summer Office Hours for St. Paul's Church and School — Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

HEAR AND SEE THE MESSAGE ONLINE!



- **Watch Live:** Attend church remotely on Sundays at The Bridge at 10:15 am. Live streaming is available at www.thebridgemuskego.org, Facebook at *The Bridge at St. Paul's*, and You Tube at *The Bridge Church Muskego*. All past live replays are also available on each platform.
 - **Sermon Videos and Podcasts:** Sunday sermons are available at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org. They are usually available Sunday evening for that same Sunday's message.
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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.

FLOWERS

The flowers beautifying the sanctuary today are from Greg and Gail Meyer in joyful celebration of their 51st wedding anniversary. To God be the glory.

HOSPITALIZED

Margaret Kujath and Delores Witte are rehabbing at Lindon Grove New Berlin. Robert Dahlke is in hospice care at Hales Corners Care Center and Norman Boye in home hospice. Richard Sobczak and Joe Tutkowski have returned home.

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

823 attended last week's worship services. 344 were in attendance for the May 27 LES graduation service.

DIVINE CALL

Mike Westendorf, who serves as our contemporary music coordinator in a part-time roll, is holding a full-time call to be worship leader at our sister congregation Crosswalk in Phoenix, Arizona. Please keep Mike and his family in your prayers.

Talia Spiegelberg, a graduate of UW Madison, is holding our call to teach 2nd grade in our Lutheran Elementary School.

GOSPEL MINISTRY CONTINUES ALL SUMMER LONG!

Many of us travel or go north on summer weekends. Make sure that your generous support of gospel ministry here at St. Paul's remains constant while you are away. Sign up today for online giving at www.stpaulmuskego.org or scan the QR code to go directly to the mobile friendly site. You may give using a credit card. Giving directly from a checking or savings account is the most cost-effective way to give.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE MISSED

Inadvertently, a Class of 2018 high school graduate was omitted from the list. It is Emilie Schneck. She is graduating from Greendale High School and will attend North Central Technical College in Wausau in the fall. We apologize for the omission.

UNDER THE CANOPY AFTER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

Stop by for coffee, beverages, and goodies after the services on Sunday, June 3. The Cancer Support Group will be hosting Under the Canopy.

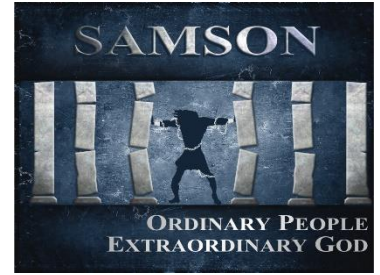
UNDER THE CANOPY HOSTS

Available dates for this summer's Under the Canopy are June 17, July 1, July 15, July 22, and August 19. Please contact David Weise at (262) 271-3093 or dweise@aol.com for more information and to reserve your date.

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

SUMMER MESSAGE SERIES: PART I

During the first three weeks of our summer message series we will focus on a hero from the book of Judges—Samson. Think you're strong? Even our best intentions can falter when we face temptation and distraction. Join us for a further look at *Samson* next week as we learn how to stand strong against forces of darkness that want to take us out.



June 10

Small Steps Toward Big Destruction

Judges 16:1-22

Samson didn't ruin his life all at once. He did it one step at a time. All the little compromises in our lives add up too. Being in the Word opens our eyes to this deadly downward spiral and empowers us to step onto a different path.

June 17

Failing Forward

Judges 16:23-31

Father's Day

A man's greatest fear is failure and his greatest pain is regret. When we fail, all too often we choose remorse. Yet what we really need is repentance. Even in our failures God can still accomplish his purposes.

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 Nate by marking the back of your Connection Card.

THE SECOND STEP: FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

Never done a Bible study? This is the perfect place to start. 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 Nate on the back of the Connection Card.

AWAKE AND ALIVE – JUNE 10

Are you 18 to 25 and looking for Christian inspiration and community? Do you want to be a Christian inspiration to your community around you? Join Awake and Alive the evening of Sunday, June 10.

Pastor James Hein, Lead Pastor at St. Marcus Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, will be leading a discussion — “Yes, I’m saved. Now what?”— working the eternal implications of a timeless gospel into a daily life. Attend in person in the Trinity Gym and Café here at St. Paul’s, 5:00 – 9:00 pm, or via the live stream that starts at 6:30 pm. Tickets are free. Registration and more information can be found at www.awakealive.com.



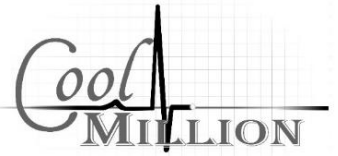
TEENS UNDER GOD (TUG) MEETS SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Have you ever been given an opportunity or gift that could not have happened except for God? Have you ever had a time when you thought God had forgotten you? Have you had a time when God used a painful situation to make some other part of your life better? Discuss these questions and more from 6:30 till 8:00 pm in the Trinity Café for our final TUG Talk on Joseph: Abandoned, Tested, Trapped, Promoted. Contact Dr. Joel Nelson with questions at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

UPDATE ON A COOL MILLION

We have received 227 gifts or plans for giving resulting in \$220,159 in gifts or plans for giving, resulting in \$220,159 in gifts already received and \$624,000 in total gifts and plans. As a result of this generous response, repaving of the school playground will occur this week. We have signed the contract to replace the windows in the Centennial gym. The HVAC contractor is getting permits to begin work on a new heating/cooling system in our school. If you haven't already returned a gift or plan-for-giving over the next two years, pick up an information packet in the lobby and return it to the offering as soon as possible.



A COOL \$100 TAX REBATE

Between May 15 and July 2, parents of children under the age of 18 on December 31, 2017, are eligible for a \$100 tax rebate from the State of Wisconsin. Learn more at <https://childtaxrebate.wi.gov>. Would you consider donating a portion of this unexpected tax rebate to **A Cool Million**? If every family at St. Paul's could donate 50% of that tax rebate, we would give over \$35,000 to **A Cool Million**. That is probably not possible for everyone, but perhaps it is possible for you. It only takes a minute. Be sure to claim your rebate here: <https://childtaxrebate.wi.gov>.

SUMMER GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY SERIES—VERY IMPORTANT CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

In a survey of Grace Room Bible class participants, 13 unique chapters of the Bible were requested to discuss during the Sundays in June, July, and August. Come and find out why the chapters selected are so important, beginning this Sunday in the Grace Room, 9:15-10:15 am.

DIVORCecARE SUPPORT GROUP

St. Paul's offers DivorceCare, a Christ-centered, 13-week program which includes video segments, group discussion, and personal Bible study. Feel free to join anytime throughout the 13 weeks to find help, discover hope, and experience healing. DivorceCare is held on Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm, in school classroom #8.

SERVING OPPORTUNITY – BRIDGE RIGGING

We are looking for a couple of individuals who would be willing to pull out equipment for the Bridge on Saturday evenings in preparation for the Sunday set-up. The task takes about an hour and can be done anytime on Saturday evening. It requires some strength to move a number of the equipment pieces. We have one volunteer who is currently serving in this position every other week. The new individuals would cover the opposite weeks and fill in when needed. For more information, contact Pastor Bonack at jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext 119

SCHOOL OF EARLY LEARNING JOB OPENING

Our Child Care Center is hiring a teacher's aide. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 11:30 am - 6:00 pm; with the 2 - 2 ½ year-old children.

Please contact Kim Neubauer at kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, to apply.

HELP A ST. PAUL'S MEMBER SUFFERING WITH ALZHEIMER'S

A member of St. Paul's is looking to hire a caregiver to watch his wife for several hours, two or three days per week. If you are interested, contact Tammy Miller in the church office for more information at (414) 422-0320, ext 111.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

COOL MILLION GOLF OUTING

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 11, 2018**

REGISTRATION 12:30PM

SHOTGUN START 1:30PM

DINNER 6:30PM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL - TRINITY CAFE

**PRIZES, GIVEAWAYS AND
DRAWINGS TO FOLLOW**



**NEW BERLIN HILLS
GOLF COURSE**

3175 W GRAHAM ST,
NEW BERLIN, WI 53151

**4 PERSON
SCRAMBLE**



REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:

- 18 holes and cart
- 2 Beverage Tickets
- Dinner provided by Wegner's St. Martin's Inn
- Prizes and Giveaways



- ☐ \$100 per golfer
- ☐ \$400 per team
- ☐ Assign me/us to a Foursome
- ☐ \$100 Hole Sponsorship
- ☐ Dinner only - \$25 per person

Total = _____

**receipt will be sent to you.*

Complete this form and send with payment to:

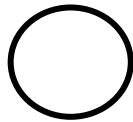
**St. Paul's Lutheran School
ATTN: Golf Outing
S66 W14325 Janesville Road
Muskego, WI 53150**

Please make checks payable to: St. Paul's Muskego

****Register your foursome by June 15th and the team will receive one free "Arms Length" of Raffle Tickets!**

All proceeds benefit the Cool Million projects.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Emily Meitner, 414.422.0320 ext. 110 or emeitner@stpaulmuskego.org**

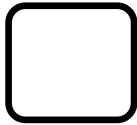


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Where have you seen God work in your life this past week?
2. Read Judges 14:1-20.
 - What words would you use to describe Samson based on these verses?
 - Does it surprise you to find Samson listed in the Heroes of Faith chapter (Hebrews 11:32-34)? Why or why not?
 - What can we learn about God from Judges 14 and Hebrews 11:32-34?
3. Read 1 Peter 3:3-4. Samson's weakness toward sexual sin is prevalent today. How did Samson fail to understand true beauty? How does this failure affect men and women today?
4. Samson was incredibly strong. Help each person in the group recognize at least one area in which God has made them strong (examples... compassion, willingness to serve, leadership, ability to listen well, patience, etc.). Discuss the possibility of attending an "I am Built" workshop as a group to learn your strengths. For more information contact Emily Krill at ekrill@stpaulmuskego.org or 262-510-8109.
5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10.
 - What makes Paul's testimony about his thorn in the flesh so memorable?
 - Share a time in your life when God seemed to say to you, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." How could this time in your life help you share your faith in Jesus with others?
6. Break up into pairs or triads to pray for each other, that your partner(s) would use their strengths to glorify God.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Ordinary People – Extraordinary God

When Strong Men are Weak

Judges 14, page 253

_____ Strong _____ Men _____ are Weak,
Hebrews 11:32-34; Romans 7:18-19;

1. God is despised.

- a. Despised in our society as we t_____ in strong men ... Othniel, Ehud, Barak, Gideon, Abimelech, Jephthah, Samson.
- b. Despised in our lives as we find b_____ in the wrong things (Judges 14:3, 1 Peter 3:3-4).
- c. Despised in the world as we h_____ our weakness by misusing our strengths.

2. God is glorified.

- a. Glorified in confessing my w_____ (Judges 14:4; Proverbs 28:13).
- b. Glorified in celebrating my p_____ (Psalm 51:13)
- c. Glorified in using my s_____ (Judges 13:5; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Romans 8:26)

My Next Steps in Letting My Extraordinary God Use an Ordinary Person Like Me

- **Learn from History:** Over the next three weeks, read the Book of Judges, a chapter per day, to see that ours is a God who uses the strengths of weak Christians to accomplish his purpose. If you don't have a Bible, pick one up at the Welcome Center.
- **Confess your Weaknesses:** Meditate on the fact that the Holy Spirit placed Samson's sins and yours on the same level in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
- **Claim your Strengths:** Attend an "I am Built" workshop to discover the strengths God has given you for the good of his kingdom. For more information contact Emily Krill at ekrill@stpaulmuskego.org.