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PRAYER IS POWERFUL

NEGOTIATING WITH GOD

July 1, 2, and 5, 2017

Abraham intercedes for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah that God would spare the righteous.

PRESERVICE HYMN SING

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 255

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

BAPTISM (*Sunday 9:15 am*)

Hymnal page 12

Samarah Kimberly Fults

Daughter of Jeff and Grace Fults, born March 20, 2012

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 God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C **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.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the freedom we have in this country to stand up for and make our beliefs known.

C **Help us seize every opportunity to make an impact.**

M Yet our most important mission in this world is sharing your gospel love in Christ.

C **As we seek to live out your love in our lives, help us remember that our main goal is to change hearts for eternity.**

M We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 33, Bible page 553

We put our hope in the Lord and in his unfailing love.

ANTHEM (Sunday)

Your Kindness, Michele Eiche
based on Romans 2:4

VERSE OF THE DAY (Saturday and Wednesday)

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

Luke 18:1-8, Bible page 1051

Jesus teaches us to keep on praying and never give up.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Third Petition of The Lord's Prayer

All Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

M What does this mean?

C God's good and gracious will certainly is done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

M How is God's will done?

C God's will is done when he breaks and defeats every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh, which try to prevent us from keeping God's name holy and letting his kingdom come. And God's will is done when he strengthens and keeps us firm in his Word and in the faith as long as we live. This is his good and gracious will.

SERMON

Genesis 18:1-33, Bible page 15

Pastor Peter Panitzke

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Sunday*)

Thine Is the Glory, *Jill Mitchell*

by G. F. Handel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

C We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.

M You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.

C For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.

M Look with favor upon our nation, and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

C Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.

M Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

C Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. 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 PRAYER

M Lord Jesus, let us be a blessing to our nation,
 C as we share your love in all we say and do.

M For you live and reign with the Father 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

POSTLUDE (*Sunday*) **God Bless America**, *Jill Mitchell*
by Irving Berlin

PRESIDING MINISTER (*Sunday*) *Pastor David Kuehl* (*Wednesday*) *Pastor Jeffrey Bonack*

ORGANIST *Nicole Greanya*



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 July 3, 2017

MON	10:00 am 5:45 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Grief Share (Church Library)
TUE		Independence Day
WED	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
THURS	6:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Quilting Fellowship (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Stoney Creek Bible Study (Stoney Creek Adult Community) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Grace Room Bible Study The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Awake and Alive (Trinity Gym and Café)

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The church and school office will be open 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, continuing through the summer until the start of school on August 22. The office is closed July 3 and 4 for Independence Day.



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
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ST. PAUL'S NEWS

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home, and Sandra Holtz is at St. Luke's. Pastor Herbert Lichtenberg and Danielle Komater and baby Remy Jo 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, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Janelle Gray, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Marvin Pellmann, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Jake Strande.

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.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

958 attended worship services last week.

DIVINE CALLS

We rejoice that the Holy Spirit has led Kristen Miller to accept the joint call to teach Spanish in our school, at Christ the Lord in Brookfield, and at Trinity in Waukesha.

Pastor Steve Kuehl of Powell, Ohio, continues to deliberate the call to serve as our Resident Missionary.

St. Paul's member Sarah Tonn, who serves at St. Paul's as a teacher's aide, has a part-time call to teach 3K at St. John's Lutheran Church on Forest Home Avenue.

We praise God for leading Kristin to accept her call and ask for the Holy Spirit's guiding hand over Sarah and Pastor Steve as they deliberate where their gifts may be best utilized in God's saving plan.

KIDS CLUB THIS FALL

If being a part of shaping the next generation for the Lord is something you'd enjoy considering, contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or mark your interest on the Connection Card. Dr. Nelson looks forward to sharing the joys and rewards of youth ministry with you.

SAVE THE DATE...AND YOUR APPETITE!

The Annual St. Paul's Church Picnic

When: Sunday, August 6, at 11:30 am (following the outdoor service)

Where: St Paul's School grounds

What: Food, music, games, beverages, ice cream, and FUN

Why: FUN!

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

MISSION NEWS FROM THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

In the coming months, we will highlight world mission news from the Book of Reports and Memorials prepared for this year's synod convention.

The Joint Mission Council of our church body (WELS) is working with a Pakistani national here in the United States to focus our attention on Muslim outreach at the congregational level in areas with Muslim populations around them and to new congregations that may be started in the future in areas with high-density Muslim populations. In addition, funding will continue to be directed toward World Mission efforts in countries with Muslim populations such as Nepal and Pakistan.

St. Paul's leads our church body in support of mission work around the world! Of every dollar you give to our General Fund, 13% is sent to the synod to support our work together. Praise God that you are part of God's work among Muslims!

JUNE MALAWI MISSION COMMUNIQUE

Pick up the latest newsletter from our Resident Missionary John Holtz, a son of our congregation, who is serving in Malawi, Africa. Hear about the nine African natives who recently graduated from the Lutheran Bible Institute in Malawi and will now continue their pastoral training at the Seminary. Thank you for special gifts that provide about 1/3 of the support necessary for the ministry of Pastor Holtz.

TEXT TO GIVE 414-316-6733

We are excited to announce a new way to give. Text a dollar amount (always put the dollar sign before it) to 414-316-6733. You will receive a text to register your credit or debit card. After registration, giving is as simple as texting a dollar amount to 414-316-6733. Weekly, monthly or quarterly recurring gifts can also be set up. A generous donor has agreed to give a \$50 matching gift for each of the first 20 recurring gifts set up through text-to-give prior to June 28.

ONLINE GIVING – AN EASY WAY TO GIVE REGULARLY

Over 20% of our offerings are received through online giving. Because Christians give regularly to support the Lord's work, online giving can help you carry out your plans for your weekly or monthly offerings. You can use the QR code or find the online giving tab at www.stpaulmuskego.org.



ST. PAUL'S TEENS

If you missed the first TUG session of the summer, you'll have another chance Sunday, July 23, 6:30-8:00 pm when TUG meets again in St. Paul's Trinity Café. Add the date to your calendar notifications and use the screaming banshee alert if you need to! Here's what we'll do that night:

- A cause-and-effect match activity will get our brains sticky for considering what the "Gospel Effect" is.
- Reactions to the results from the 5-month, online survey of St. Paul's teens and parents will be sought to determine if the survey responders really know what they're talking about.
- Ideas will be generated via brainstorming and gallery-walking to determine what issues TUG will tackle in the year ahead.
- Planning will commence for what social, recreational, or service activity you teens want to do on the next TUG Sunday.
- Food and drink will be consumed.

Sound boring? It will be, but only if that's what YOU are! If, however, you are alive, intelligent, caring, talented, fun-loving, and want to grow your faith, your relationships, and your future, then PLEASE COME! It will be a great time.

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

PRAYER IS POWERFUL

In this series we are taking a look at prayers spoken by ordinary people that were answered by God in powerful ways. We too can touch the heart of God. We too can impact hearts, lives, and even history itself. And in every case, no matter what, we can be confident that our prayers offered in faith are heard by our gracious and loving God for Jesus' sake. *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16).*



July 9	When God Gives a Blank Check (4th Petition)	1 Kings 3:5-10
July 16	Have Mercy on Me, a Sinner (5 th Petition)	Psalms 51
July 23	Listen to These Insults! (6 th Petition)	2 Kings 19:14-19
July 30	Out of the Depths (7 th Petition)	Jonah 2
August 6 (Picnic Sunday)	Answered Prayer Leads to Praise (Doxology)	1 Samuel 1:9-7, 2:1-10

HOMERS, TRIPLES, DOUBLES, BUNT SINGLES, AND RALLY CAPS

Thank you to everyone who joined in our efforts to finish the year financially strong. In honor of the division-leading Milwaukee Brewers, we continue to use the baseball analogy. Some of you were able to quadruple your offerings for a week—a home run! Others promised to triple or double your gifts. Several of you mentioned that you could do a bunt single to drive us home. Others weren't able to give a special gift but you had your rally caps on, praying that God would bless this effort.

Your prayers and your gifts have made such an incredible difference! Last year we set a challenging offering goal of \$1.76 million. We trusted the power of the Holy Spirit working in the hearts of his people. We have ended the fiscal year within \$20,000 of that goal. In addition, hundreds of thousands of dollars were given to mortgage and internal debt reduction and tens of thousands of dollars were given for the resident missionary position here and in support of our mission partner.

For all of this it is appropriate that we thank you, God's generous people, and ultimately give thanks and praise to our God for working so powerfully in our hearts and lives.

PRAYER IS POWERFUL – EASTER EVERY SUNDAY

Wouldn't it be great to see St. Paul's filled with 2071 people every Sunday? That was our Easter attendance. That is the potential number of people we could share the love of Jesus with. Would you join your Ministerial Team in praying for that miracle? Each Monday morning your Ministerial Team is also joining in prayer for the individual needs of God's people here at St. Paul's. We are growing in our own appreciation that "Prayer is powerful!"

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

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.

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 Pete or on the Connection Card.

MAKING YOUR BIBLE YOUR BEST FRIEND FOREVER

"The Word of God is living and active" (Hebrews 4:12). We believe that. But how many of us have started to read the Bible and got bogged down in endless lists of names and laws? Do you want help making sense of it all? Could your Bible be your BFF? In the study *Through the Bible in a Year*, you will use your own Bible as your "textbook," so you can highlight and take notes that will help you for a lifetime. Each week you will receive an outline of what is coming next and selected Bible portions to read. The study will be offered on Monday evenings and early Wednesday afternoons. Check the Connection Card for more information.

DEADLY DESIRES: THE NEXT GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

Do you long to offer helpful, spiritual guidance for family members, friends, fellow Christians, or unbelievers who struggle with the homosexual lifestyle? Do you yourself struggle with the temptation of homosexual behavior? If so, this study offers scriptural encouragement to resist and also help others resist the homosexual way of life. Join Mr. Scott Barefoot, President of People of Grace Ministries and a former homosexual, to learn more for three Sundays at 9:15 am in the Grace Room starting July 16.

AWAKE AND ALIVE – JULY 9

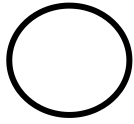
Awake and Alive is our ministry to the 18-25 year-old-generation in southeast Wisconsin, encouraging a closer relationship with Jesus and each other. Sunday, July 9, is the second of three events being held this summer. More information on Awake and Alive events may be found at www.awakealive.com.

INCLUDE THE LORD IN YOUR VACATION PLANS

Grow in your faith and encourage your fellow Christians by finding a church to worship at while on vacation. Go to www.WELS.net and click "Find a Church" at the top of the page.

UNDER THE CANOPY HOSTS

July 16 is still available for Under the Canopy. Please contact David Weise at (262) 271-3093 or dweise@aol.com to sign up.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Share your highs and lows from the past week. Pray together, thanking God for both the highs that delight us and the lows that remind us of our need for him.

2. Read Genesis 18:9-15.
 - Langston Hughes once wrote about deferred dreams in his poem “Harlem”:

*What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore - and then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over - like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?"*

Do you hear any of this in Sarah's response to God's "deferred" promise of a child?
 - How do you respond when it seems like God is deferring or delaying fulfillment of your hopes, dreams or prayers?
 - Sarah's laugh of bitterness or irony later becomes a joyful noise when she names her son Isaac - which means laughter. Where in your life has bitterness been transformed into a joyful noise?

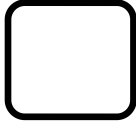
3. Read Genesis 18:20-33. What did Abraham have to believe about the LORD his God in order to have the confidence to negotiate like this with him?

4. Read Genesis 32:22-32. This is also a negotiation between a man and God. Discuss the differences and similarities between Abraham's methods and Jacob's methods. Which style is more like yours?

5. At the conclusion to his prayer, Abraham submitted to God's will. Share a story where you have seen someone's strength evident in their submission to God's will?

6. Abraham hoped for even the tiniest bit of good in Sodom and Gomorrah. Where would you like God to help you see even the tiniest bit of good in our troublesome world today?

7. Close with prayers offered up by the group for our nation, our leaders, and our men and women in the armed forces.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Prayer is Powerful! Your Will Be Done.

Genesis 18

1. The LORD's mercy makes me laugh.

- a. Laugh in _____
- b. Laugh at _____

2. The LORD's mercy makes me bold.

- a. Bold as _____
- b. Bold in _____

3. The LORD's mercy makes me strong to submit to his will.

- a. Submission _____ strength
- b. Submission _____ strength

4. The LORD's mercy and the Fourth of July

- a. _____ in God's mercy
- b. _____ in God's mercy
- c. _____ in God's mercy

My Next Steps

- Be a student of God's mercy. If you are not reading God's word daily, begin this week by seeing God's mercy evident in Abraham's life. Read Genesis 12 – 24, 2 chapters/day.
- Be a persistent pray'er because of God's mercy. Serve you nation by praying for it.
- Be a persistent pray'er because of God's mercy. Serve our youth by purchasing *The Power of a Praying Parent* and persistently praying for the children in your life.