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IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY

OBEDY IN REVERENCE

August 22, 23, and 26, 2020

Living in view of God's mercy changes the way we see our government officers. What do we owe our government? Is there a time that, in view of God's mercy, we disobey our leaders? Is there a place for civil disobedience?

FACE MASK PLEASE

In humble service to all in our church community, we are asking all present from age 5 and up to wear a face mask during worship in voluntary compliance with Governor Evers' order. Face masks are available from the ushers if you forgot yours. If you are unable to wear a face mask for medical reasons, please do all you can to maintain social distance from others. In Christian love, let us seek to protect the health of others.

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 243

Oh, Worship the King

Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above;
Oh gratefully sing his pow'r and his love,
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In you do we trust nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

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 Brothers and sister, what does the Lord require of you?

C **To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.**

M Let us value and enjoy our freedom, but let us never use it as a cover-up for evil.

C **The governing authorities have been established by God. They are to be God's servants to do us good.**

M Righteousness exalts a nation!

C **But sin disgraces any people.**

M As we confess our many sins today, we count among them our failure to respect, support, and pray for our nation's leaders.

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.

C **Amen.**

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

SONG OF PRAISE

Oh, Taste and See

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating where a note spans multiple syllables. The score begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are: '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.'

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, keep this nation under your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth.

C **Help us elect trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve you faithfully in our generation to the honor of your holy name.**

M We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 14:10-31

The saving power of the LORD creates reverence and trust in the hearts of God's people.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

¹³ Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. ¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³ The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵ He jammed the wheels of their

chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” ²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. ²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

²⁹ But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. ³⁰ That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. ³¹ And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 73

We put our trust in God at all times.

M I am always with you, O LORD; you hold me by my right hand.

C **You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.**

M Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

C **My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

M Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.

C **For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

Even when the world around us appears to be self-destructing we can trust that our Savior is watching over and working all things for our spiritual and eternal blessing.

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY 785, vv. 1, 4, 6

O Lord of Nations

*We offer our thanksgiving to God for all his goodness,
mindful that every good and perfect gift comes from above.*

O Lord of nations, hear our prayer.
We thank you for this land most fair,
Created by your might.
For mountain sunset, lake at dawn,
For woodland bloom and robin song,
For stars that lace the night,

Forgive us, Lord, when we forget
Your gifts to share, your Word to spread
To those who ache and bleed.
Renew our will to help the weak,
To feed the hungry, and to speak
Your Word to souls in need.

When storm and terror strike our land,
Remove our fear and help us stand
Against our enemies.
Lord, may no wicked men prevail.
May ev'ry plot of treach'ry fail.
May we remain at peace.

13 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ²Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

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.**

And for the leaders you ordained
We pray, O Lord, that they remain
Courageous, honest, wise.
Oh, give them guidance, make them strong
To stand for right, to battle wrong,
That freedom's song may rise.

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 Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.
- C **Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.**
- 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 may follow.

- 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.

Christ, by heav'nly hosts adored,
 Gracious, mighty, sov'reign Lord,
 God of nations, King of kings,
 Head of all created things,
 By the Church with joy confessed,
 God o'er all, forever blest --
 Pleading, at your throne we stand:
 Save your people, bless our land.

Give us rulers who will be
 Known for love and honesty;
 Let the pow'rs that you ordained
 Be in righteousness maintained.
 In the people's hearts increase
 Love of piety and peace.
 Thus united, we shall stand
 One wide, free, and happy land.

CLOSING PRAYER

M Lord Jesus, our risen Savior, you have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light.
 C **Cause the Word we have heard to take root in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives.**

M Sustain us by the power of your Spirit that we may walk in your way,
 C **that we may seek your truth,**

M and that we may find eternal life.
 C **Amen.**

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

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

For the week of August 24, 2020

| | | |
|--------------|----------|---|
| MON | 10:00 am | Walking Club (Trinity Gym) |
| TUE | 8:05 am | St. Paul's Kindergarten – 8 th Grade Resumes |
| | 9:30 am | Ministry Growth Team Meeting |
| | 10:00 am | Walking Club (Trinity Gym) |
| | 10:30 am | Ministerial Team Meeting |
| | 4:30 pm | Public School Confirmation Classes (Main Church) |
| | 6:00 pm | Divorce Care (School Classroom 8) |
| WED | 7:00 pm | Traditional Worship Service |
| | 7:00 pm | <i>Following the Promise Bible Study</i> |
| THURS | 6:30 am | Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) |
| | 10:00 am | Walking Club (Trinity Gym) |
| | 7:00 pm | Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Pete |
| 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 |
| | 9:45 am | The Bridge Communion |
| | 10:15 am | The Bridge |
| | 10:45 am | Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion |

JOIN US ONLINE

If you can't join us in person, join us online! A video archive of sermons is available at www.stpaulmukego.org/worship/sermons.

The Bridge, our casual contemporary service, is livestreamed every Sunday at 10:15 am on each of the following platforms. You can find an archive of past messages on each site, with the full-service replay on YouTube.



www.thebridgemuskego.org



@ The Bridge Church Muskego



@ The Bridge at St. Paul's

MEET OUR NEW TEACHERS

Mr. Mark Sievert *Grade 5*

Background

Mark was born and raised in Janesville, Wisconsin. He attended St. Matthew's Janesville through 8th grade where his father was pastor. After grade school, Mark attended Northwestern Preparatory school, graduating in 1991. In 2001, he graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran College, where he was an assistant baseball coach for three years while attending school.

Experience

This will be Mark's 19th year teaching! Mark took his first position teaching at The Hope Schools in Milwaukee where he served as a 5th, 7th and 8th grade teacher and also served as an administrator. From there he went on to serve as Dean of Students at Garden Homes Lutheran School in Milwaukee for one year before moving into the public schools. He has taught 14 years in the Muskego Norway School District, coaching at the high school and teaching 5th grade at Lake Denoon Middle School. Mark is excited to return to our WELS schools and share the gospel message on a daily basis once again.

Family

Mark married Jodi in 1998. They have two children, Savannah and Cooper. Savannah graduated from St. Paul's in 2018 and is currently a junior at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Cooper is currently a 6th grade student at St. Paul's excited to have missed his dad as a teacher by one year it appears.

Interests

Mark stays active by following his children's athletic activities. He follows Savannah around the country with her soccer and is involved coaching Cooper in basketball and baseball in Muskego community sports.

Moving forward with this new challenge and responsibility of teaching God's children His saving grace, he takes with him Exodus 4:12 which says, *"Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."*



MEET OUR NEW TEACHERS

Mrs. Louise Abramowski *Music*

Background

Louise grew up in Menomonee Falls and attended grade school at St. John's, Lannon. She then attended Sussex Hamilton High School and Martin Luther College. Louise graduated from MLC in 2004 with a degree in Elementary Ed.

Experience

After graduation, Louise received a call to Resurrection Lutheran School in Rochester, MN. She taught 3rd and 4th grade in one classroom for three years. At Resurrection, Louise also taught recorder to the 4th graders and directed the Children's Christmas program. During her time in Rochester, Louise was a member at Ascension Lutheran, where she played organ and piano, helped with worship planning, and led Sunday School music. After Steve and Louise were married, Louise was an aide at St. Marcus Lutheran School in Milwaukee for one year.

While spending time at home with her children, Louise taught piano lessons. She more recently served one year as an aide in 4th grade and directed the Children's Choir for two years here at St. Paul's. She currently plays piano for worship at her church, Victory of the Lamb, and teaches Sunday School there as well.

Family

Louise is married to Steve, a nurse at Children's Hospital. They have four children, three of whom are here at St. Paul's: Rebecca (7th grade), Nora (5th grade), Andrew (3rd grade), and Hope (age 2). Louise's parents, as well as her two sisters and their families, live in the Milwaukee area. She feels blessed to live near them.

Interests

Louise enjoys spending time with family and friends, listening to and playing music, reading, and being outside. She is thankful for the opportunity to serve at St. Paul's, and looks forward to sharing her love of music with her students!



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

FUNERAL

Robert Schaefer, born June 29, 1931, began eternal life with his Savior on August 16, 2020. A graveside service will be held on Sunday, August 23, 2020 with military honors. Please keep Bob's loved ones in your prayers.

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Linda Hartwig (Hales Corners Care Center), Fred Liermann (hospice care at Autumn Leaves in Franklin), Dorrette Probst (home hospice care), Carol Constantineau (Ignite Medical Resort in Oak Creek), Brittany Michaels (Froedtert), Marlene Sobczak (rehabbing at daughter's house), and Lois Stichmann (The View at Pine Ridge). Gerri Wetzell has been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 67 on Saturday; 70 on Sunday 7:45 am, 109 on Sunday 9:15 am, 98 at The Bridge, 35 on Sunday 10:45 am, and 22 on Wednesday.

COMMUNION SERVICES

Communion is offered on the second and last weekend of the month. Small group communion in the Grace Room is offered the first and third weekends of the month. Call the church office (414-422-0320) to register for small group communion.

AUGUST "FAMILY IN NEED"

One of our members has been hospitalized for the last month awaiting a lung transplant. If she is accepted into a transplant program, it will likely be out-of-state. Another family member will also need to travel with her. Even with insurance, costs continue to mount. If you would like to help this family, mark your gift clearly, "August Family in Need," or go to StPaulMuskego.org/Give and donate to "Friends in Need," putting "August Family in Need," in the memo line.

ST. PAUL'S CHRIST-CENTERED CARE AND COUNSELING MINISTRY

We are beginning the organizational preparations for our focused counseling and care ministry (personal/family counseling, support groups and life coaching). We are looking for individuals who are interested in serving 1) on a planning/oversight team and/or 2) assisting in the day-to-day operations of the ministry (support groups, lay counseling/coaching, etc.). If you are interested in serving in either of these capacities or would just like a little more information, contact Pastor Bonack at jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org. Also, if you know of any professional counselors who may be willing to serve part time or full time at our facility, please let us know. Thank you!

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR DANDELION DAZE COMMUNITY OUTREACH—AUGUST 29

DandiLion Daze, formerly the Muskego Community Festival, or Muskego Fest, remains the largest free admission festival in southeastern Wisconsin. St. Paul's would like to show our support for our community by having a float at the Dandelion Daze Parade and distributing candy. If you would like to donate candy for this event, please bring it to the church lobby by the evening of Saturday, August 29. Candy suggestions: Tootsie Rolls, suckers, Smartees...

AWAKE AND ALIVE SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

An Awake and Alive small group Bible study is coming up Sunday, August 23, at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Contact Mike Westendorf at mwestendorf@stpaulmuskego.org or visit awakealive.com to let us know you can join us and for the zoom link.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

AUGUST SERMON SERIES

In View of God's Mercy – A Study of Romans 12-16

How do we deal with people who think differently than we do and act differently than we do? How do we deal with people who mistreat us? How do we overcome the racial and economic divides and COVID-19 divides? We can find the answers if we remember to live "In View of God's Mercy," looking back to the mercy that we have received as the motivation for our actions and looking from that place of mercy to reflect that mercy in all our interactions.



August 30

Submit in Kindness

Romans 14 – 15

September 6

United in Christ Alone

Romans 16

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

Following the Promise is a 12-week class designed to challenge you in what you think you know, introduce you to the world's only Savior in Jesus, and take you on a journey from creation to the cross and to the halls of heaven. Join Pastor Nate online on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Text Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236, email at nstrobels@stpaulmuskego.org, or register on the back of your Connection Card.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR PETE

Every other Thursday, Pastor Pete will lead a Zoom Bible study at 7:00 pm, generally using the GroupWork Bible study material. The next study will be on August 27. Register on the Connection Card or simply click the Zoom link that will be sent out just prior to the study.

SUNRISE BIBLE STUDY TO MEET ON WEDNESDAYS

For years the Sunrise Bible Study has met early Thursday mornings. But starting September 3, the group will switch to meeting on Wednesdays with the same time of 6:30-7:30 am in the same place - the Faith Room. Our study currently focuses on the Scripture readings that will be read at the upcoming weekend's worship service. For more information on this Bible Study please contact Bruce Marggraf at (262) 679-4725.

KIDS CLUB START POSTPONED

We will postpone resuming in-person Kids Club until at least October 4. A recent survey and in-person worship patterns of our Kids Club families appear to reflect a high level of concern regarding COVID-19. By delaying the start of Kids Club until October, we are allowing Kids Club families and staff time to experience the reopening of our elementary schools and to learn from that experience. We will continue to provide weekly online lessons and resources to use at home. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.

WEBSITE VIDEO FOOTAGE

On Sunday, August 30, we will be working on shooting a video that will be used on our new website. Mike Westendorf will be around campus capturing what life is like at St. Paul's during the COVID time. He will be at the main church and The Bridge. If you prefer your image not be used in the website video, please contact Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner at (414) 218-5197, swallner@stpaulmuskego.org, or speak with her on Sundays.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

LUTHERAN SCHOOL MINISTRY

School Begins August 25

Our Lutheran School (Kindergarten-8th Grade) ministry begins on Tuesday, August 25, with an anticipated enrollment of 224. It is not too late to enroll! Contact School Administrator Fitzsimmons at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118.

Pre-K Begins after Labor Day

Our 3K and 4K ministry begins September 8, with an anticipated enrollment of 80. We offer a variety of options – half day or full day, number of days per week of your choice, and wrap-around care. If you would like to register your child, contact Pre-K Director Michele Drska at (414) 422-0320, ext. 144.

St. Paul's Child Care Center

Our child care ministry for children six weeks to three years old is open year-round, 6:00 am – 6:00 pm. If you are interested in enrolling your child or baby (soon to arrive), contact Tammy Dockter at 414-422-0320, ext. 200.

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER STAFF OPENINGS

We have an opening on our Child Care Center staff. Hours are 12:30 – 6:00 pm, Monday – Friday. We are also looking for substitute teacher's aides. Hours are flexible and could include shifts like 7:00 am-1:00 pm, 7:00 am-3:00 pm, or 12:30 pm-6:00 pm as well. If you or someone you know would be interested or have more questions, please contact our Child Care Assistant Director Tammy Dockter at dockterta@stpmuskego.org.

CONFIRMATION 2020

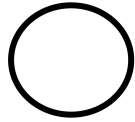
The confirmation of our 26 youth confirmands, postponed in May due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 13, with services at 1:30 and 3:00 pm. The annual taking of pictures and practice for the confirmation services will take place the morning of September 12. In both cases, we will make every effort to adhere to the governor's mask-wearing order and social distancing guidelines. Questions should be directed to Pastor Kuehl at 414-422-0320, ext. 121, or dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASSES

St. Paul's students in public schools (Grades 6-8) will have their first Confirmation Instruction class in the church building on Tuesday, August 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Grade 6 will meet in the sanctuary, Grade 7 in the Faith Room, and Grade 8 in the Grace Room. This will be the only in-person session until the end of September, so it is very important that all students attend. PLEASE WEAR A MASK. If you'd have questions, contact Dr. Nelson.

HELPING MISSION PARTNER YOUTH WITH VIRTUAL SCHOOL

The Lighthouse Youth Center at Garden Homes Lutheran Church (our mission partner) is open and running its program for neighborhood youth with all of the safety precautions in place that are currently practiced elsewhere: temp checks, strong cleaning procedures, less than 50% capacity, COVID admission related questions, wearing masks, etc. Lighthouse is in need of tutors to help youth with school lessons and assignments assigned to them via virtual learning. During this difficult time, Lighthouse seeks to assist families and children by providing a safe environment and needed technology so inner city students can complete school assignments and keep learning. In addition to the tutoring, Lighthouse is also in need of people to physically provide Friday night suppers for the children or financial help to obtain supper on its own. If you would be willing to learn more about these needs and how you might help, contact Dr. Nelson (414-750-2586 or jnelson@stpmuskego.org).



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1) Share where you have seen Jesus working in your life over the past week. (Be specific - go beyond just saying "I see him in everything I do.")

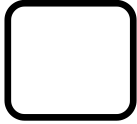
2) This week's message is about obedience. Think back to when you were 5 years old and share a story from that time that shows how you felt about obedience. Does that still accurately represent how you feel about obedience today?

3) Read Romans 13:1-7. Which do you personally find more difficult: a) offering obedience to challenging personalities in leadership or b) loving difficult personalities in your life?

4) Read 1 Samuel 24:1-13. What's your reaction to David's actions? Have you ever been in a situation where you chose to respect someone in authority even when they seemed to "have it out for you"?

5) Read Romans 13:8-10 and John 15:12. Events in 2020 so far have given us a lot of new reasons to disagree and become unloving. What's one current debate that frustrates you and how can you show love to someone who holds the opposing view in that issue?

6) Wrap up your time together in prayer for one specific person or issue that you would like God's help with regarding obedience or love.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Romans 13:1-10

+ In View of God's Mercy, Obey in Reverence +

Introduction: Ouch! Mixing religion and politics

I. Submit to the governing authorities.

A. The authorities that exist have been e_____ by God.

1. Old Testament example: the A_____ and B_____
2. New Testament example: P_____ P_____

B. God has a loving p_____ in establishing authority.

1. He wants the government to maintain p_____ and o_____ in society.
2. God wants to b_____ us through his representatives.
3. God knows our s_____ and how by nature we put o_____ first.
4. Injustice and corruption will not end until God brings the w_____ to an end.

C. More than changed b_____, God wants changed h_____.

II. Love your neighbor as yourself.

A. God sent Jesus so that we might live under a d_____ authority.

1. It's the power of sacrificial l_____ demonstrated on the cross.
2. "Christ's love compels us" (2 Corinthians 5:14).
3. No more sneaking off to do our own thing when we think G_____ isn't looking.
4. We gladly pay the d_____ we owe.
5. It's the obligation that we in love carry out because God had m_____ on us.

B. We are citizens of God's kingdom ruled by a government that doesn't always look to G_____ for wisdom and guidance.

1. We're often f_____ and occasionally s_____ by decisions and decrees.
2. We're all in this t_____.
3. We know who's s_____ on his heavenly throne and have his p_____ to be with us.

Conclusion: We obey in reverence. We pay what we owe because we've experienced the freedom that God's forgiveness in Christ gives us.

My Next Steps

- **Read** Romans 14 to prepare for next week's message on *In View of God's Mercy Submit in Kindness*.
- **Memorize** 2 Corinthians 5:14 – "Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."
- **Pray** that the Lord would lead you to put the needs and concerns of others before your own, especially in this time of pandemic.