

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

IN YOUTH

August 20, 21 and 24, 2016

It's a tough, lonely thing to grow up in a world filled with high expectations and endless temptations. How can we come up alongside our youth, let them know that we love them, we care about them, and we're ready to listen without judgment?

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 367

Christ Be My Leader

BAPTISM (Saturday)

Hymnal page 12

Jack Albin Hannon

Son of Michael and Jenna (nee Miller) Hannon, born July 15, 2017

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

C Amen.

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, David once prayed:

C **"Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good"** (Psalm 25:7).

M Though often impetuous and lacking self-discipline, the young are not the only ones who fall prey to temptation. We are tempted in different ways as we journey through the various stages of our lives. Not only that, experience often teaches us to be more adept at covering up and hiding our sin. But sin is sin. No matter what our age or what we are guilty of, we are called to humble ourselves before our holy God and confess all our sins to him.

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



Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

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.**

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

SONG OF PRAISE HYMN 232, vv. 1, 3

Lord of My Life, Whose Tender Care

Lord of my life, whose tender care
Has led me on till now,
Here lowly, at the hour of prayer,
Before your throne I bow.
I bless your gracious hand and pray
Forgiveness for another day.

To you my humble praise I bring
For mercies day by day.
Lord, teach my heart your love to sing;
Lord, teach me how to pray.
All that I have and e'er can do
I'll use to serve and honor you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Jesus, you once lived as a young man among us. Raise up young men and women who, although brought up in a culture of murmuring and disrespect, are filled with joy, thankfulness, and strength of character.

C **May they do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that they may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation,"**

M so that they shine like stars,

C **as they hold firmly to the word of life** (*Philippians 2:14-16*).

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

C **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 5:5-11, Bible page 1223

Peter gives instruction to youth to respect their elders, and he gives all Christians the encouragement to clothe themselves in humility, to trust in the Lord, and to actively resist the devil.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 25, Hymnal page 74

Lord, do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28, Bible page 983

In his impetuous youth, Peter rebukes Jesus for talking about his suffering and death. In response, Jesus lovingly encourages Peter to keep his focus on the things of God.

SERMON

Psalm 25, Bible page 549

Pastor David Kuehl

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sunday*)

My Father's World in His Hands

Bruce and Betty Marggraf

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M O Lord God, we thank you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the promised graces we have received through him. We thank you that through his perfect life and his obedience to death on the cross we have been granted cleansing and pardon for all our sins.

C **We thank you that in his resurrection we have the promise of life everlasting, and that in his ascension to the right hand of your majesty we have the assurance that he continually intercedes for us.**

M Help us believe and trust in him, love and serve him, that in all our thoughts, words, and actions we may manifest his spirit.

C **Rebuke our selfishness and subdue our self-indulgence. Deepen our sympathies, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.**

M Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered in you alone, so that no difficulty, trial, or adversity rob us of the conviction that you are our helper in every time of need.

C **Relieve the afflictions of the weary and the sick, and dry the tears of the troubled and sorrowful. Lead them to look to you as the unfailing spring of healing and hope.**

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord.

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 588, vv. 1, 4, 5, 7

Abide with Me

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 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 *Darik Mischke*



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 August 21, 2017

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Class Parents' Meeting (Main Church)
TUE	8:30 am	Lutheran Elementary School Opening Service
	9:15 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
WED	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	Kids Club Team Meeting (School Classroom #9)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI	5:00 pm	Schuh / Glasel Wedding Rehearsal (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	2:00 pm	Kathryn Schuh and and Shawn Glasel Wedding Ceremony (Main Church)
	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
6:30 pm	TUG – Teens Under God (Trinity Café and Gym)	

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

WEDDING

Shannon O'Reilly and Nick Stovich were joined in marriage on Saturday, August 19. May God bless and keep Shannon and Nick in their married life together in Christ.

FUNERAL

Donald Schreiber, born August 2, 1928, entered eternal glory in heaven on August 11, 2017. A Christian funeral was held on August 14, 2017. May the loved ones of Donald find comfort in our risen Savior today and always.

FLOWERS

The flowers adjacent to the pulpit were given by Dan and Tammy Dockter in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary on August 23.

KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home, Margaret Holtz is at Hales Corners Care Center, Cathy Moll is at Waukesha, and Marilyn Schwartz is at St. Luke's. Edwin Gunther, Dorette Probst, and Kristi Schneider and baby Every have returned home.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Jodie Crosby, Sharon Dreyer, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Janelle Gray, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, and Marvin Pellmann.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

805 attended worship services last week.

CALL FOR RESIDENT MISSIONARY POSITION POSTPONED

The voters meeting scheduled for Sunday, August 20, to call a pastor for the position of Resident Missionary has been postponed. Over a year's worth of funding for this new position has already been received through an Antioch Foundation Grant and designated gifts. However, in the last few weeks we have experienced an unprecedented number of families informing us that their children will not be returning to our school. Our anticipated K-8 enrollment went from 235 to 215, primarily because families are moving out of the area. As a result, our anticipated tuition receipts will be about \$50,000 less than we budgeted. Because the financial ministry plan was already a challenging one, reductions in ministry spending may be necessary. The congregational leadership wants time to consider those reductions before we continue the calling process.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Our thanks to Bill Renschak, our volunteer webmaster, for rebuilding our website. Check it out at www.stpaulmuskego.org.

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

FALL SMALL GROUP SERIES

During late September and early October our message series and small group focus will give us the opportunity to dig a little deeper into the concept of worldview. Whether or not we realize it, we all have certain presuppositions and biases that affect the way we view all of life and reality. Many people fail to recognize the extent to which their worldview impacts their thinking. As Christians we have our own unique worldview—one that is based on the ultimate source of truth, the Word of God. The foundations of our worldview are found in the early chapters of the book of Genesis. That will be the scriptural focus of our study. As always, this fall study is a great time to test drive a small group and experience the profound impact it can have on your faith life. Mark the back of the Connection Card if you have any questions or would like more information.



LUTHERAN SCHOOL MINISTRY

School Begins August 22

Our Lutheran School (K-8) ministry begins on Tuesday, August 22. It is a tremendous blessing to serve our students and their families with daily spiritual growth in God's Word, connecting them closer to Jesus every day while also growing their minds and hearts for lives of Christian service. It is not too late to enroll! If you or someone you know might be interested in Christian education, please contact our School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons for a school tour as soon as possible at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118. Tuition assistance is available.



Pre-K Begins after Labor Day

Our 3K and 4K ministry begins the week after Labor Day, and there are only a few open seats still available! We offer a variety of options – half day or all day, the number of days, and wrap-around care. If you would like to consider Christian education for your 3 or 4 year-old, or if you know someone who would still like to enroll their child, contact Pre-K Director Michele Drska at (414) 422-0320, ext. 144.

School of Early Learning

Our childcare ministry for children six weeks to three years-old is open year-round. If you are interested in enrolling your child or adding your child to the waiting list, contact our SOEL Director Kim Neubauer at 414-422-0320, ext. 200.

YOUTH GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH MINISTRY RESUMES ON SEPTEMBER 10

Help your children make spiritual growth a regular part of their lives by participating in the programs listed below. For more information contact Dr. Joel Nelson at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145, or jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.

Kids Club (Age 3 – Grade 6)

Our Sunday morning youth ministry for children 3 years-old through 6th grade resumes on Sunday, September 10, at 9:15 am. Kids Club features a large group opening followed by small group discussion to help your child apply God's Word to their lives.

Boost (Grades 7 & 8)

Boost (7th and 8th grade) also begins on Sunday, September 10, at 9:15 am. Using an engaging, multi-media, but more traditional classroom format, Boost participants experience a thematic curriculum of Bible history, current events, and life/family issues all centered on God's Word.

PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

Our preparation for youth confirmation includes three years of study. Children in our Christian Elementary School receive this instruction during the school day. Children attending public school receive this training on Wednesday afternoons. Parents and students participating in the Wednesday afternoon classes must attend the orientation/registration meeting in church on Monday, August 21, 6:30-7:30 pm. For more information contact Dr. Joel Nelson at 414-422-0320, ext. 145.

TUG – TEENS UNDER GOD

TUG is a unique ministry for teens – members of St. Paul's and their friends. TUG provides teens with worship, education, fellowship, recreation, and service opportunities, as well as time to develop Christian relationships with each other and adult mentors within a safe, caring, supportive, and fun environment.

- August 27 – Discussion: Teen Suicide
- September 10 – Laser Tag (watch for details)
- September 24 – Discussion: Teen Suicide

TUG meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month in the Trinity Café and Gym from 6:30 until 8:00 pm,



KIDS CLUB TEAM FOR 2017-18

Our first staff meeting for this school year is Thursday, August 24, at 6:30 pm in school classroom #9 (Science Lab). Enter using the west side school door #4. The goal is to complete the meeting by 8:00 pm. See you there, and thanks for being part of Kids Club!

SHARE JESUS WITH KIDS

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.

ADULTS GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

SUNDAY MORNING STUDIES

My Son, My Savior – Now through August 27. See how Mary experienced and pondered the miracle of Jesus' coming and humbly grew in her understanding that her son was also her Savior. The main message for all is that Jesus is their Savior, too. Join Mr. Jim Haag as he leads this Grace Room Bible study August 13, 20, 27, and September 3 at 9:15 am in the Grace Room.

Let's Get to Know God and Ourselves a Little Better – Begins Sunday, September 10. This class will explore St. Augustine's assertion that all of theology is presented either explicitly or implicitly in the first three chapters of Genesis and will be taught by retired Martin Luther College professor, Pastor Daniel Deutschlander.

Parents' Club – Begins Sunday, September 17. Facilitated by St. Paul's Pre-K Teacher Anne Meyer and her husband, Chris, the course *Parenting: The Early Years* will explore ten biblical traits your kids will remember you for. This excellent 6-week, DVD-assisted course will be held in school classroom 8.

Creation Science Part I – Begins Sunday, October 15. Dig deeper into what every Christian should know about origins. This two-week class will be taught by St. Paul's member and creation science enthusiast, Joel Weaver.

Martin Luther: Return to Grace – Begins Sunday, October 29. As part of our remembrance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we will take a look at the WELS-produced DVD-assisted study based on the PBS documentary *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*. St. Paul's member Mel Rindfleisch will teach the class. Mel has a love for history and has taught about Martin Luther at St. Paul's previously. Watch for more details coming on the celebration of this vital event for all of us.

WEEK DAY STUDIES BEGINNING MID-SEPTEMBER

Following the Promise – Begins Tuesday, September 12, at 7 pm.

This is the perfect place to start if you have never done a Bible study. 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 15-week study, you will follow that promise through the Bible and see how it impacts your life. This also serves as a preparation-for-membership Bible study. Mark the Connection Card to register.

Through the Bible In a Year – Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning September 13.

Through the Bible In a Year is replacing *The Story* study, so that we can use our own Bibles as the textbook, highlighting and taking notes that will be helpful for years to come. The course will be offered on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm, beginning September 13, and Mondays at 7:00 pm, beginning September 18. Mark the Connection Card for more information.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

SERMON SERIES – TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

As we go through life we all struggle with our own personal weaknesses and temptations. We know and love our Savior. We long to serve him and live to his glory, but we are weak. It is frustrating for us that the good we want to do, we do not do and the evil we hate, this we keep on doing. This is the cross we have to bear.



Some temptations and struggles are most common to youth, others to middle age, and still others in the golden years. In this three-week series we will look at the crosses that are rather typical to each of these age groups in the interest of strengthening the one who imagines that he is all alone under his cross.

August 26, 27, and 30

In Middle Age

Matthew 19:16-30

The business of making a living, getting ahead, accomplishing goals, or even just surviving from day to day and year to year in our fallen world can so easily turn our eyes away from the cross. How do we keep the proper priorities? How do we keep from being sucked into a self-centered existence?

September 2, 3, and 6

In the Golden Years

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

We come to an age in life where we deal more and more with calluses of the soul. We always imagined that we were in control, but more and more it becomes all too clear that we are not. It's a painful, bitter pill to swallow. How do we during this time of life maintain a healthy attitude that gives thanks to Jesus for each day, even though it's not the day we dreamed it would be?

CANDY DRIVE

The Muskego Community Festival Parade is happening on Sunday, August 27. Help out with this summer event by bringing a bag or two of candy to church on or before the weekend of August 20. Donation of money are also appreciated. Please bring only *Smartees*, *Tootsie Rolls*, or lollipops. There is a collection bin in the church lobby. What we don't receive in donations, we will need to purchase.

MEALS FOR OUR MISSION PARTNER

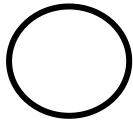
Garden Homes Lutheran Church in Milwaukee's inner city is a St. Paul's mission partner. The Lighthouse Youth Center, which is part of Garden Homes' ministry, has contacted St. Paul's to see if any groups would be willing to provide a simple dinner for the Lighthouse kids in 2017-18. The normal "menu" is easy stuff to provide and would need to serve about 30-40 youth. The idea would be that the St. Paul's group providing the food could also deliver it, help serve it, and then hang out with the kids a little. If your group would be interested in talking more about this and potentially picking a date in 2017-18, please contact Dr. Nelson at (414) 750-2586 or jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.

FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Footsteps of Faith – Saturday, October 14, at Divine Peace Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. This one-day women's retreat is filled with worship, prayer, and God's Word. It is designed to renew and strengthen your faith as follow the footsteps of Christ in your faith walk. Go to <http://PHMISix.org> for more information and to register.

CELEBRATE LIFE

Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center is celebrating 20 years of serving the Waukesha community in honoring life. A celebration service will take place on Sunday, September 17, at 4:00 pm, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waukesha. A fundraising celebration dinner will follow at 5:30 pm. Cost is \$20 per person. To register, contact Tomorrow's Choice at (262) 513-9590.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Share a high and a low from your high school years.

2. What was a key “take away” from the “Take Up Your Cross in Youth” message you heard this weekend?

3. Read Psalm 25 aloud. Allow three minutes of silence to jot down the key words or phrases that jump out at you. Share with the group the words you highlighted and why.

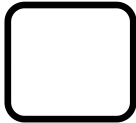
4. “Remember not the sins of my youth.” Often the guilt and shame of past sins trouble us for years afterward. What tools does God give us to overcome that guilt and shame? Look up the following passages to guide your discussion.
 - a. 1 John 1:8-2:2
 - b. James 5:16
 - c. Galatians 3:26-27
 - d. Matthew 26:28

5. What are temptations that are troubling youth today? Pause your discussion to join in prayer for God’s protection.

6. “It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees” (Psalm 119:71). How does cross-bearing make us more ready to be instructed, guided, or taught (Psalm 25:8-9)?

7. The word for “hope” in verses 3, 5, 21 is the same word translated “wait” in Psalm 130:5, “I wait for the LORD.” How might the life experiences of the elderly help them to “hope” or “wait” for the Lord more easily than youth? How might sharing these life experiences across generations help our youth?

8. Who is a person younger than you that God has put on your heart that you might be able to mentor? Pray for the opportunity to connect, patience to listen, and wisdom to speak.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

+ Take Up Your Cross in Youth + Entrust Your Soul to the Lord

Psalm 25 (Bible page 549)

Introduction: What is the most valuable thing you own?

1. The Lord rescues you from your enemies.
 - A. Regardless of our age, we have e_____.
 - B. Our enemies are often those c_____ to us.
 - C. By keeping our eyes on God, we “m_____ the Lord and
m_____ the problem.”
 - D. God will d_____ with our enemies, so we don’t have to.
 - E. We’re simply to l_____ our enemies.

2. The Lord forgives you of your sins.
 - A. Our worst enemy is i_____ of us: our sinful nature.
 - B. The word “iniquity” literally means “t_____.”
 - C. How far do we have to twist before we’re on the road to hell?
 - D. Only God can s_____ us out, and that’s what he does with
f_____.

3. The Lord guides you by his Word.
 - A. Guidance = God-u-&-i-dance
 - Dancing requires two partners to be on the same p_____.
 - Dancing requires that one partner takes the l_____.
 - B. To learn the steps to God’s tango, we need to go to the
o_____ m_____, the Word of God.

Conclusion: Let the world laugh at your godliness. You’ll never be put to shame.

My Next Steps

- **Read** Matthew 19:16-30 (The Rich Young Man) to prepare for next week’s message on *Take Up Your Cross in Middle Age*.
- **Memorize** 2 Timothy 4:18: “*The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.*”
- **Develop a plan** to spend 5-10 minutes in God’s Word every day.
- **Pray** to the Holy Spirit for the courage to let your light shine for the Lord, despite the insults and ridicule you may incur.