



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

IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY

UNITED IN CHRIST ALONE

September 5, 6 and 9, 2020

Satan will do everything he can to spread division. This is even more reason to keep our eyes focused on God's mercy, asking for God's forgiveness where we cause division and celebrating the miraculous unity of God's Church.

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 536, vv. 1, 2

Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head,
You are her one foundation.
In you she trusts, before you bows,
And waits for your salvation.
Built on this rock secure, Your Church shall endure
Though all the world decay And all things pass away.
Oh, hear, oh, hear us, Jesus!

O Lord, let this your little flock,
Your name alone confessing,
Continue in your loving care,
True unity possessing.
Your sacraments, O Lord, And your saving Word
To us e'er pure retain. Grant that they may remain
Our only strength and comfort.

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 In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks of the lifestyle choices that glorify God and bring true happiness to his people. He says: "Blessed are the poor in spirit."
C **Yet I am full of pride.**

M "Blessed are those who mourn."
C **Yet I struggle to feel sorrow for my sin.**

M "Blessed are the meek."
C **Yet I am often stiff-necked.**

M "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness."
C **Yet I desire to find fulfillment in unholy things.**

M "Blessed are the merciful."
C **Yet I am often harsh and impatient.**

M "Blessed are the pure in heart."
C **Yet my heart is all too often impure.**

M "Blessed are the peacemakers."
C **Yet many times I do not want to seek reconciliation.**

All For these and all my sins, 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.

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 536, v. 3

Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

**Help us to serve you evermore
With hearts both pure and lowly.
And may your Word, that light divine,
Shine on in splendor holy
That we repentance show, In faith ever grow.
The pow'r of sin destroy And evils that annoy.
Oh, make us faithful Christians.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, even though you are the King of universe, you became the servant of all.
C **You humbled yourself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.**

M Give us hearts like yours.

C **Take away our pride, and fill us with a desire to live with all in the love and harmony that comes through the message of your cross.**

M You live and reign with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 6:2-8

The faithful God promises rescue for his people.

²God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. ³I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself fully known to them. ⁴I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. ⁵Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

⁶"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. ⁸And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.'"

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 133

God longs for his people to live together in unity.

M How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

C **It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on Aaron's beard.**

M It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

C **For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:1-20

The teachers of God's people had lost their spiritual foundation and become blind guides.

15 Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, ²"Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"

³Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' ⁵But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,' ⁶they are not to 'honor their father or mother' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

⁸“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁹They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.”

¹⁰Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. ¹¹What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.”

¹²Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?”

¹³He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

¹⁵Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.”

¹⁶“Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. ¹⁷“Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY 523

God of Grace and God of Glory

**God of grace and God of glory,
On your people pour your pow'r;
Crown your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom; grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.**

**Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From our fears that long have bound us,
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom; grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

SERMON

Romans 16

Pastor Peter Panitzke

16 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. ²I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.

³Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. ⁴They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

⁵Greet also the church that meets at their house.

Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia.

⁶Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you.

⁷Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

⁸Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord.

⁹Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.

¹⁰Greet Apelles, whose fidelity to Christ has stood the test.

Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.

¹¹Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew.

Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

¹²Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord.

Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord.

¹³Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.

¹⁴Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the other brothers and sisters with them.

¹⁵ Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the Lord's people who are with them.

¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss.

All the churches of Christ send greetings.

¹⁷ I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. ¹⁹ Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

²¹ Timothy, my co-worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my fellow Jews.

²² I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord.

²³ Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings.

²⁴ Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings.

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M O Lord God, heavenly Father, we praise and glorify you for the unsurpassed gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess that we are unworthy sinners who have transgressed your will and Word.
- C **We repent of our evil and pray for the faith that trusts utterly and completely in the righteousness of Christ Jesus for our forgiveness.**
- M Open our hearts to the mighty power of your Word. Teach us to depend on your holy Sacrament for spiritual strength.
- C **Grant that our minds may be renewed in righteousness, that our consciences may be stirred to choose the good, and that every thought, word, and deed may be brought into captivity to Christ.**
- M Give to your Church ministers and teachers who have the faithfulness and courage of true prophets, that your people may be built up in faith, abound in good works, rejoice in your love, and finally enter your heavenly kingdom.
- C **We pray for our beloved country. Give us citizens who perceive that the standard of all that is right is not personal advancement or private favor, not public opinion or party platform, but your holy will.**
- M Lavish your grace on all families, that each home may, by its Christian love and character, be for our children a foretaste of the joy and blessedness of our heavenly home. For all who are in any sickness, pain, anguish, or suffering, for all who are in any danger of body or soul, we pray.
- Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*
- M Teach them to turn to you and wait on you for mercy.
- C **Grant them hope and a joyous deliverance from all their trials, and let them walk in your light all their days.**
- M These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our refuge and hope.
- 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.

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
 With the cross of Jesus Going on before.
 Christ, the royal master, Leads against the foe;
 Forward into battle See his banners go!
 Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
 With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God;
 Brothers, we are treading Where the saints have trod.
 We are not divided, All one body we,
 One in hope and doctrine, One in charity.
 Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
 With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,
 But the Church of Jesus Constant will remain.
 Gates of hell can never 'Gainst that Church prevail;
 We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot fail.
 Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
 With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

CLOSING PRAYER

M O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of September 7, 2019

MON		Labor Day
TUE	8:05 am	First Day of PreK
	9:30 am	Ministry Growth Team Meeting
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	6:00 pm	Divorce Care (School Classroom #8)
WED	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	4:30 pm	Public School 6-8 Grade Confirmation Instruction Classes
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i>
THURS	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Panitzke
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Faith Room)
	8:30 am	Confirmation Pictures and Practice (Grace Room and 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	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	1:30 pm	Private Confirmation Worship Service
	3:00 pm	Private Confirmation Worship Service

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 HD replay on YouTube.



www.thebridgemuskego.org



@ The Bridge Church Muskego



@ The Bridge at St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

YOUTH CONFIRMATION 2020

Next Sunday, September 13, twenty-seven youth members, who have received thorough instruction in the truths of God's Word in Confirmation Class, will have the opportunity to confess their faith before family and friends in private afternoon services. We as a congregation pray that the Holy Spirit will preserve these youth in their faith to the end of their days. Below are the confirmands listed by the worship service in which they will confirm their faith:



Sunday 1:30 pm

Alyssa Rae Randolph
Hailey Anne Ristow
Jackson Tyler Rossmann
Eddie Neil Rynders
Schuyler Richard Santos
Jacob David Schenkel
Allie Rose Schneck
Dominic Jordan Schnier
Nathaniel Owen Sperber
Megan Lynn Tweedie
Preston Jay Vahovick
Brooke Kimberly Weber
Henry Stephen Westphal

Sunday 3:00 pm

Austin Keith Bertino
Evan Christopher Clark
Logan Thaddeus Eirschele
Colin Jeffrey Foley
Bailey Katherine Gallagher
Sofia Grace Garofani
Bradyn William Michael Horn
Samuel James Kneser
Aiden Kenneth Krause
Ashton Kenneth Krause
Sophia Faith Lepke
Mason James Mroczenski
Jack Michael Olson
Sara Marie Potter

SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES—BETTER TOGETHER

As young people return to classes, we are reminded of the importance of equipping ourselves for the various situations and challenges before us in life. If this is true in a temporal and earthly sense, how much more true spiritually! The Scriptures exhort us to equip ourselves to fight the good fight. But just as students require a team of individuals to guide and encourage them toward higher levels of growth (i.e. parents, teachers, coaches, friends), Christians need both the guidance of God's Word and the assistance of other Christians to provide support and direction on their journey toward spiritual maturity. We are better together! What's your plan for Word of God time in the months ahead? Who are the spiritual mentors to assist you on this journey? And finally, what obstacles may be standing between you and attaining your goals?



SEPTEMBER 13	ME	MATTHEW 16:21-26
SEPTEMBER 20	YOU	MATTHEW 18:15-20
SEPTEMBER 27	US	MATTHEW 18:21-35

WORSHIP PLANS

WORSHIP PLANS FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS

The Ministerial Team continues to evaluate the best way to serve our congregation with Word and Sacraments during the COVID pandemic. We will be implementing the following changes:

1. **Traditional Service Livestreamed Sundays at 9:15 am, beginning September 13**

Beginning the weekend of September 13, we will livestream the 9:15 am traditional service as well as the 10:15 am Bridge Service. Our online congregation will be able to hear the congregational responses and join in simultaneous worship. We will be able to make the service interactive by inviting immediate feedback on Facebook. A livestreamed service also provides for a more prominent placement on social media. Those worshipping at 9:15 am will see extra camera equipment on the sides of the sanctuary, but otherwise the service will continue as normal.

The livestreamed service will be available for playback almost immediately. It will remain available for online worship for a week until replaced by the following Sunday's worship. The messages will then be added to our online message library.

A drawback is that those accustomed to viewing the new worship service on Saturday will not be able to do so. We pray that you will be able to adjust to a new worship schedule as we seek to develop an online ministry that can be sustained by our team for months to come.

2. **Overflow Seating at 9:15 am service**

Because the 9:15 am service will be livestreamed, we will be able to livestream the service into the Grace Room and other areas on campus as needed to expand our seating capacity while still providing for adequate social distancing.

3. **Confirmation Services on September 13**

Our youth confirmation services will be held on Sunday, September 13 at 1:30 and 3:00 pm. Attendance is by invitation only. Both services will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

4. **Outdoor Worship on September 20**

We will offer another outdoor worship opportunity on Sunday, September 20 at 10:30 in place of The Bridge service and 10:45 am traditional service. It may be possible that we will offer one more outdoor service in October if the long-range weather forecast looks promising.

5. **Small Group Communion**

We will continue to offer small group Communion twice per month. However, because of the overflow seating in the Grace Room, small group Communion will be offered in the sanctuary after the Saturday 5:00 pm and Wednesday 7:00 pm services and on Wednesday from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon, beginning the weekend of September 20th. Registration for small group communion will continue to be offered through a "Needs List" e-mail and by calling the church office at 414-422-0320.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISM

Samuel David Gleisner, son of David and Angela (nee Grelk) Gleisner, was born May 21, 2020, and will be baptized in a private ceremony on September 6, 2020. May God bless Samuel in his baptismal faith today and always.

HOSPITALIZED

Bill Graumann (Community Memorial in Menomonee Falls), 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), Brittany Michaels (Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina), and Lois Stichmann (The View at Pine Ridge). Marlene Sobczak has returned home.

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 88 on Saturday, 69 on Sunday 7:45 am, 88 on Sunday 9:15 am, 100 at The Bridge, 51 on Sunday 10:45 am, and 25 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.

WEDDING OF KEN HOLZ AND JULIE WAGNER INVITATION

Ken Holz, former member and past president of St. Paul's, and Julie Wagner are getting married on Sunday, September 13, at 2:00 pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mukwonago. An informal reception will follow in the church basement. They invite anyone from the congregation to attend. Please pick up a wedding invitation at the Welcome Center with more details. "We invite you to share our joy and support our love as we exchange marriage vows."

ST. PAUL'S PARTICIPATES IN THE DANDILION DAZE PARADE

St. Paul's was proud to participate in the Muskego DandiLion Daze parade this past Sunday. Mike Krill and the His Way band played and sang worship songs as they interacted with the crowds and handed out candy. Many people were singing along and clapping to songs like "How Great Thou Art." The parade is one of the outreach events St. Paul's does to support our community and show our love to the people of our city.



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

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!

HELPING MILWAUKEE KIDS WITH VIRTUAL SCHOOL

The Lighthouse Youth Center at Garden Homes Lutheran Church needs tutors to help youth with school lessons and homework assigned to them via virtual learning. Lighthouse assists families and children by providing a safe environment and needed technology so inner city students can complete school assignments and keep learning. Lighthouse is open and running its program with all the safety precautions in place that are required of them: temp checks, strong cleaning procedures, less than 50% capacity, COVID admission related questions, wearing masks, etc. In addition to the tutoring, Lighthouse is also in need of people to physically provide Friday night suppers for the children or financial help so it can obtain supper for the children directly. To learn more, indicate your interest on the Connection Card or contact Dr. Nelson (414-750-2586 or jnelson@stpmuskego.org).

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 29 ON TUESDAYS

"Come one, come all!" to the fall session of *Following the Promise* (FtP), running 12 weeks through December 15. Taught 100% online and "recorded so you can miss a class and watch later," a computer or iPad is all you need! Each week from 7:00 until 8:15 pm we journey from creation's fall into sin to the "goodness" of Good Friday to the halls of heaven--finding Jesus at the heart of the Scriptures. Text interest to Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236, email him at nstrobels@stpmuskego.org, or register on the back of your Connection Card. This class serves as a path to membership.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR PETE

Every other Thursday, Pastor Pete leads a Zoom Bible study at 7:00 pm, generally using the GroupWork Bible study material. The next study will be on September 10. Register on the Connection Card or simply click the Zoom link that will be sent out just prior to the study.

ORGANIZATION FOR WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SENIORS - OWLS

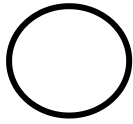
There will be no OWLS meetings until further notice. President Char Pingel says, "I will miss gathering with all of you!"

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP RESUMES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Our Alzheimer's support group is resuming this month on their regularly scheduled third Tuesday of the month gathering. If you have a loved one suffering from Alzheimer's disease, please consider joining this support group on Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 pm in the church library. Contact David Timm at (414) 588-3850 with questions.

OCTOBER SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT

Due to COVID19 concerns, we will not be hosting our annual October Sheepshead Tournament. It will be rescheduled when it can be attended safely.

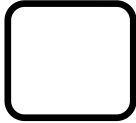


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Skim over Romans 16:1-16, where Paul mentions many people who have “worked hard in the Lord.” Who are some of the people in your life or your congregation for whom you are thankful because they “worked very hard in the Lord”?
2. Read Romans 15:23-33. Paul shares his mission plans and his request for prayers. Do you have a “mission plan,” an individual or family that you hope to bring closer to Christ? Take time as a group to pray for each other’s mission plans.
3. Read Romans 16:17-20. Paul had just celebrated unity in Christ alone by mentioning many people by name. What are we to “watch out for” that threatens to destroy this unity?
4. Compare Paul’s instruction to Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:13-20. How does the warning about the narrow way to life give urgency to Jesus’ command to watch out for false prophets?
5. How does it make you feel to hear Paul’s words: “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (Romans 16:20)? When do you feel crushed by Satan? When do you feel Satan is crushed by you?
6. Close with the Lord’s Prayer as a prayer that our Father would create and preserve unity in God’s church based on Christ alone.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

In View of God's Mercy: United in Christ Alone Romans 15:23-16:27

1. Satan is the divider – A review of Romans 12-15

2. The Goal of Unity in Christ Alone (Romans 16:25-27)

3. The Blessing of Unity in Christ Alone (Romans 15:23-16:16)
 - a. Supporting each other's ministry
 - b. Praying for each other
 - c. Encouraging each other

4. Strive for Unity in Christ Alone (Romans 16:17-20)

My Next Steps

- **Pray:** “Join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.” Let someone know that you are praying for them.
- **Give Thanks:** Spend time in thanksgiving for the people who have “worked hard in the Lord” or who has been a spiritual mother or father to you.
- **Strive for unity based on God's Word:** Make a plan to grow in your knowledge of God's Word,
 - Join Pastor Pete in the daily Bible readings (see daily emails or the reading plan at the Welcome Center).
 - Join the next *Following the Promise* study. Email Pastor Nate at nstrobels@stpmuskego.org.
 - Join a zoom or in-person small group Bible study. Email Pastor Pete at ppanitzke@stpmuskego.org.