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BETTER TOGETHER

YOU

September 19, 20, and 23, 2020

We live in a world that says that no one has a right to judge another. While it's true that the Scripture prohibits a judgmental attitude, we are also called to watch over one another's spiritual welfare. How do we walk this seeming tightrope?

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 337

Delay Not! Delay Not

Our opening hymn shares a poignant invitation to experience, today and always, one of the greatest gifts our God offers—forgiveness and peace through the blood of Christ.

**Delay not! Delay not! O sinner, draw near!
The waters of life are now flowing for you.
No price is demanded; the Savior is here.
Redemption is purchased; God's promise is true.**

**Delay not! Delay not, O sinner, to come,
For mercy still lingers and calls you today.
Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
Its message, unheeded, will soon pass away.**

**Delay not! Delay not! The Spirit of grace,
Long grieved and resisted, may take his sad flight
And leave you in darkness to finish your race,
To sink in the gloom of eternity's night.**

**Delay not! Delay not! Why longer abuse
The love and compassion of Jesus, your God?
A fountain is opened -- how can you refuse?
Come, wash and be cleansed in his pardoning blood.**

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Brothers and sisters, the apostle John warns us that if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C **But, if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just. He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9).**

M Let us, therefore, draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.**



C **I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**



C **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 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful Father, you freely forgive those who, like David of old, acknowledge and confess their sins.

C **Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of your dear Son.**

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 **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 33:7-11

The LORD takes no pleasure in the spiritual and eternal death of the sinner and, therefore, appeals to each of us to call one another to repentance.

⁷“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

¹⁰“Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ ¹¹Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 51a

Our prayer of confession and repentance

M Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.

C **Wash away all my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

M For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

C **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

M Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

C **Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquity.**

M Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

C **and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Amen.**

Jesus' instruction for lovingly and patiently calling one another to repentance

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be^[a] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

HYMN OF THE DAY 308

As Surely As I Live, God Said

The words of this hymn remind us that Christ has given God's people the awesome and awe-filled power and responsibility to share his saving grace, as we call one another to repentance and then proclaim the forgiveness Christ won for all.

"As surely as I live," God said,
 "I would not have the sinner dead,
 But that he turn from error's ways,
 Repent, and live through endless days."

To us, therefore, Christ gave command:
 "Go forth and preach in ev'ry land;
 Bestow on all my pard'ning grace
 Who will repent of sinful ways.

The words which absolution give
Are his who died that we might live;
The minister whom Christ has sent
Is but his humble instrument.

Praise God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
As was, is now, and so shall be
Forever and eternally!

SERMON

Matthew 18:15-20
Pastor Jeffrey Bonack

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M *Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father gather and guide it so that we may worship him in peace and tranquility:*

M Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your Word, and bring salvation to people everywhere. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

M *Let us pray for our pastors and teachers and all leaders of the Church, and for all the people of God:*

M Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold all who serve you and your people. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church. Help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

M *Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way to salvation:*

M Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the gospel. Help us, your Church, to grow in love for you and for one another, so that we become more perfect witnesses of your love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

M *Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom:*

M Almighty and eternal God, graciously direct those who have been set in positions of authority among us, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

M *Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, and free those unjustly deprived of liberty:*

M Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart.

Special prayers and intercessions.

M In your mercy hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ, our 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 560

I Hear the Savior Calling

This hymn contains a powerful reminder of the urgency of leading people (first and foremost ourselves) to acknowledge the reality of their sin, so that they can learn to cling more fervently to God's full and free forgiveness.

**I hear the Savior calling! The gospel comes to me.
My eyes once closed in blindness Are opened now to see
That I myself was helpless To live eternally,
But, dying, Christ did save me, And now he calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! He leads a soul to me,
A soul in bitter anguish, One needing to be free.
The gift I have to offer Is Christ, my Lord's decree
That all have been forgiven -- My Savior calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! His call has urgency!
Each moment souls are dying; Soon comes eternity.
And so, my precious Savior, This is my humble plea:
Prepare me for my mission For you are calling me!**

CLOSING PRAYER

M Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, 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

JOIN US ONLINE

If you can't join us in person, join us online! Our Sunday 9:15 am traditional service is livestreamed to www.stpaulmuskego.org and to YouTube @ St. Paul's Muskego. 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 and full-service replays on each platform.



www.thebridgemuskego.org



@ The Bridge Church Muskego



@ The Bridge at St. Paul's

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of September 21, 2020

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
TUE	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	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise Bible Study</i>
THURS	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



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.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

WEDDING

Samantha Thrall and Matthew Dougherty were joined in marriage on Saturday, September 19, 2020. May God bless and keep them in their unity together as one in Christ.

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), Brittany Michaels (Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina), Lois Stichmann (The View at Pine Ridge in Oconomowoc), and Lois Zdroik is at Waukesha Memorial. Bill Graumann has been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 91 on Saturday, 68 on Sunday 7:45 am, 135 on Sunday 9:15 am, 119 at The Bridge, 26 on Sunday 10:45 am, and 13 on Wednesday.

SMALL GROUP COMMUNION SERVICES

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 20. 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.

THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF THE AUGUST FAMILY IN NEED

Our St. Paul's member who is awaiting a double lung transplant is now at an out-of-state hospital and has been accepted into their program and is awaiting donor lungs. Thank you for your generous gifts of \$7,045 to our August Family in Need. These gifts will help them with the many costs of living "temporarily" in another state while awaiting surgery. May the Lord continue to watch over them.

WILL YOU BE JOINING KIDS CLUB?

On September 13, Kids Club began its 2020-2021 season of lessons under the theme, "Epic Teachings of the Bible." The lessons are virtual for now. To enjoy the weekly lesson, go to the church website homepage and click on the family resources image. Kids Club hopes to begin in-person sessions soon. In order to help us finalize logistics for a potential in-person start, we'd like everyone who is planning to join the in-person sessions to complete the online registration form. You can find the form on the church website under Sunday Morning Youth Ministry. Completing this form will give us a student count for each grade level, allowing us to finalize class sizes/combinations, and teacher assignments. If you'd have any questions about any of the above, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Nelson at jnelson@stpmuskego.org or (414) 750-2586 (cell) or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145 (office).

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

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 27

Us

MATTHEW 18:21-35

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@stpmskego.org, or register on the back of your Connection Card. This class serves as a path to membership.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR PETE

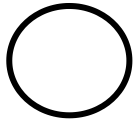
Every other Thursday, Pastor Pete leads a Zoom Bible study at 7:00 pm, generally using the GroupWork Bible study material. The next study will be on September 24. Register on the Connection Card or simply click the Zoom link that will be sent out just prior to the study.

COUNSELING AND CARE MINISTRY SEMINAR: RESPONDING IN FAITH TO ABUSE

Survivors of abuse are all around us. Even in the church. 1 in 3 men and women have experienced a relationship violence-related impact their lifetime. Abuse is a difficult topic, but so important for us to address. Research shows that survivors who have support from their church have more feelings of well-being and are less likely to return to an abusive relationship. All of us need to better understand this tragic phenomenon and how to respond. On Saturday, October 17, from 8:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Michelle Markgraf will present a highly interactive seminar where all the members of the congregation are invited to learn

- The different forms of abuse
- Effects of abuse and trauma on the survivor
- How you can help a survivor
- How our church and community can help survivors and address abuse
- And more

Please save this date. Lunch and snacks will be provided. More information on registration will be coming in the weeks ahead.



GroupWork

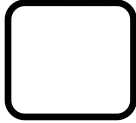
Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

Matthew 18:15-20

Theme: Better Together—Even When Sin Divides Us

1. Begin your time together sharing highs and lows from the past week and praying for each other.
2. This week Jesus addresses the topic of confrontation. What kinds of thoughts, feelings or experiences do you have with initiating confrontation or being on the receiving end of confrontation?
3. Do you know the account of Jonah? (Read Jonah chapter 1 if you need a refresher.) Describe Jonah's style of confrontation in this chapter.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 3. Describe Paul's style of confrontation. Are you typically more like Paul or Jonah?
5. Read Genesis 4:1-16 (focus on v. 8-15). Describe God's style of confrontation. Whose way would you most prefer to be confronted by - Jonah (Jonah 1), Paul (1 Corinthians 3), or God (Genesis 4)? Why?
6. Read Matthew 18:15-20. Share the important lessons about confrontation that speak most strongly to your heart right now and why.
7. Wrap up your time together in small groups of 2-3 discussing a person you feel God may be putting on your heart to confront. Talk briefly about potential dangers for yourself and for the other individual. Pray for each other that God guides you to confront in love and humility.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

Better Together Even When Sin Divides Us

Matthew 18:15-20

“If your brother or sisters sins, go and point out their fault.”

Addressing the Challenges.

The Christian chooses to s_____ him/herself to God’s will and therefore welcomes correction.

We are always guided by the moral standards clearly revealed in God’s W_____.

God alone has authority to j_____. We act on his behalf.

Confrontation is not a choice. It’s a c_____.

Focusing on the Goal

When confronting we are seeking to t_____ up.

The motivation is pure and genuine l_____.

The ultimate goal is for faith to be str_____ thened.

Exposing the Dangers.

Recognize the sinful motivations that seek to take control: anger, pride, jealousy, revenge, and an unwillingness to forgive.

Don’t lose sight of the goal: the individual’s physical, spiritual, temporal and eternal wellbeing.

Be p_____; wait on the Holy Spirit’s timeline.

R_____tionship always needs to precede and motivate confrontation.

Always remember, no matter where you are at or where the other person is at, Jesus is the answer.

Next Steps

- **Soul-searching.** Last week we talked about “me” getting in the way of “we.” That concept also applies to Jesus’ command to confronting sin in others. Spend some time prayerfully thinking about the ways that your sinful nature becomes a barrier to this important work. Confess those sins to Jesus and take hold of his forgiveness
- **Invest in relationships.** You cannot be a spiritual mentor unless you invest the time to develop meaningful relationships with other Christians. Who can you invest in this week? Consider looking into becoming a member of a Christian life group.
- **Pray for strength, wisdom, and guidance.** As the message pointed out, there are many challenges and dangers inherent in Jesus command to address sin in the lives of Christian brothers and sisters. At the same time, it is a command from our Savior. Include a request for opportunities and guidance in your daily prayers.