



SOUL SEARCHING

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

September 17, 2017

Opening Praise

Desert Song

Welcome

Call to Worship

Speak, O Lord

Prayer

Confession and Forgiveness

First Lesson

Genesis 1:1-31, Bible page 1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them.

Anthem

God Made Me, Lutheran Elementary School Grades 2 and 3

Gospel

John 1:1-13, Bible page 1062

Without Jesus, the Word, nothing was made that has been made.

Confession of Faith

The First Article of the Apostles' Creed
with Martin Luther's Explanation

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

M *What does this mean?*

All I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities. And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

Offering

Message Song

By Faith

Called Worker Installation

Message

Genesis 2:4-7, Bible page 2

Pastor Peter Panitzke

Prayer / Blessing

Sending Song

Build Your Kingdom Here

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of September 18, 2017

MON	10:00 am 5:45 pm 7:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Grief Share (Church Library) <i>Through the Bible in a Year Bible Study</i> (Grace Room)
TUE	9:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Ladies Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Handbells Rehearsal (Church Balcony) <i>Following the Promise Bible Study</i> (Faith Room)
WED	4:30 pm 1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Public School Confirmation Classes <i>Through the Bible In a Year Bible Study</i> (Faith Room) Traditional Worship Service
THURS	6:30 am 10:00 am 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Stoney Creek Bible Study – <i>Luther and Grace Rediscovered</i> (Stoney Creek) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran Elementary School Chapel Service (Church)
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 6:30 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Grace Room Bible Study Parents Club (School Classroom 8) Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Teens Under God – TUG (Trinity Café and Gym)

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH MINISTRIES

Our 3K to grade 8 ministries begin at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the school. Enter the school through the Trinity Cafe. Clearly marked signage will direct you to your child's check-in and room location.



Kids Club (Grades 3K-6)

- Large and Small Groups
- Bible Lessons and Applications
- Upbeat, Interactive, Fun!



Boost (Grades 7-8)

- Teacher-Led, Student-Centered
- Bible History, Current Events, and Life Topics
- Engaging, Meaningful, Fun!

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISMS

Jaxton Ray Walesa, son of Matthew Walesa and Britany Schmidt, was born July 25, 2017, and baptized in a private ceremony on Saturday, September 16, 2017.

Dayton Thomas Lorino, son of Thomas Lorino and Nicole (nee Klaver) Lorino, born September 4, 2007, and Cole Alexander Alger, son of Alexander Alger and Nicole (nee Klaver) Lorino, born December 5, 2011, will be baptized at The Bridge on Sunday, September 17, 2017.

Jack James Larson, son of Auden and Katie (nee Peterson) Larson, was born August 13, 2017, and will be baptized in a private ceremony on Sunday, September 17, 2017.

We thank and praise God for the gift of saving faith given to these children.

KNOWN HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home and June Fickau at Seasons Hospice. Jim Haag is at Waukesha Memorial and Carl Wauer in Woodruff, Wisconsin. Lydia Eiche, Raymond Ingold, and Margaret Holtz 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, Marvin Pellmann and Janet Sandvold.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

1083 attended worship services last week.

TEACHER INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION WITH POTLUCK – SEPTEMBER 17

The following called workers will be installed on Sunday, September 17, at the 10:45 am worship

service: Mr. Randy Fink – Church Administrator
Mrs. Samantha Loescher - 3rd Grade Teacher
Mrs. Kristen Miller - Spanish Teacher
Miss. Candy Stack - 2nd Grade Teacher
Mrs. Taryn Volbrecht – Kindergarten Teacher

Miss. Linda Martens will also be recognized for her 40 years in the teaching ministry. Miss. Martens currently serves as our morning first grade teacher and Extended Learning Coordinator. We will also say thank you and farewell to former Business Administrator Mr. Dan Lippert, who retired on June 30 after serving at St. Paul's for 6 years.

All are invited to the potluck and short program at noon in the Centennial Gym.

REFORMATION 500 CELEBRATION FESTIVAL SERVICE

St. Paul's will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation on November 5. We will observe a special festival service in all three Sunday services at the main church. The festival service will include a festival choir and orchestra. Rehearsals will begin on September 24 and will be held Sundays from 8:00 to 9:00 am (church basement) and Tuesdays from 7:45 to 8:45 pm (church balcony). You may attend either or both. Orchestra rehearsals will be Wednesdays, starting at 6:30 pm, October 18, 25, and November 1. If you are interested in joining either of these groups or have any questions, please contact Pastor Bonack.

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE – TUESDAYS AT 7:00 PM

In this 15-week study, follow God's promises layed out for you in the Bible and see how they impact your life. This also serves as a preparation for membership Bible study.

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR – MONDAYS AT 7:00 PM OR WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM

Know your God better than ever before! About a dozen chapters per week are assigned for reading. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit use this experience to increase our faith in Christ, our joy in every situation in life, our desire to know our God better, and our commitment to serve him with our entire lives. Mark the Connection Card or contact Pastor Panitzke at ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org to register for these classes.

LET'S GET TO KNOW GOD AND OURSELVES A LITTLE BETTER – NOW THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

St. Augustine said that all of theology can be found either directly or indirectly in the first three chapters of the Bible. He was right! Find out more on Sundays at 9:15 am in the Grace Room. The class is taught by retired Martin Luther College Professor, Pastor Daniel Deutschlander.

PARENTS' CLUB – NOW THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Facilitated by St. Paul's Pre-K Teacher Anne Meyer and her husband Chris, the course *Parenting: The Early Years* explores ten biblical traits your kids will remember you for. This excellent DVD-assisted course is held Sundays at 9:15 am in school classroom 8.

TOUGH QUESTIONS WITH CREATION SCIENCE EXPERT JAY SEEGERT

Our small group Bible studies are currently focusing on Jay Seegert's 4-week creation science curriculum. Jay is a well-known author and international speaker who has been lecturing on the authority of Scripture and science for 31 years. You will have the opportunity to hear Jay speak and ask your toughest questions on Wednesday, October 4, from 6:30 til 8:00 pm, in the Grace Room. Jay has a passion for helping Christians strengthen their faith, while also offering a gracious challenge to the sincere skeptic.

LUTHER PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION — SEPTEMBER 27

Luther Preparatory School is a high school owned and operated by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). Located in Watertown, Luther Prep exists to encourage, prepare, and train its students to consider serving God as a pastor or teacher in the WELS. To accomplish this mission, LPS uses God's Word to impart wisdom, strengthen faith, and foster a desire to serve in the gospel ministry.



By God's grace, 55% of Luther Prep's graduates pursue the preaching and teaching ministries. The other 45% leave LPS well-prepared to serve their Savior in other callings and careers. Keep Luther Prep in your prayers as it works to fulfill its mission. Continue to identify young people with gifts for the gospel ministry and encourage them to consider LPS for high school.

As members of the Wisconsin Synod, Luther Prep is YOUR school. They would love to have you on campus for a tour, athletic events, drama productions, concerts, or Open Houses. Interested grade school students are highly encouraged to visit and "shadow" an LPS student for a day. Please contact them if you would like to visit LPS or want more information about your school.

Web: www.lps.wels.net Phone: (920) 261-4352 Email: info@lps.wels.net

You are also cordially invited to attend a presentation about Luther Preparatory School on St. Paul's campus Wednesday, September 27, at 11:15 am, at the school. This presentation will be directed to the 6th through 8th grade students, but people of all ages will benefit from this informative and entertaining presentation.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

“DOOR OF HOPE” OFFERING UPDATE!

We are almost there! We have received over \$85,000 in special gifts received or committed!

Three weeks ago, we informed you that anticipated receipts through offerings and tuition were reduced by \$100,000 in one month. (More information is available in the *Special Edition Messenger* available at the Welcome Center.) The Ministry Board is committed to living within the means that God provides and will make ministry cutbacks as necessary. But before we made that decision, we chose to make our “Valley of Achor (Trouble)” known to you, praying that God would “make the Valley of Achor a door of hope” (Hosea 2:15).

Every dollar given for this “Door of Hope” special effort is being matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 through the generosity of several St. Paul’s families. There is still \$15,000 available to be matched.

If you are able to give a special gift, mark it “Door of Hope,” and place it into the offering. You may also direct your gift to “Door of Hope” at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give. Please respond by Monday, September 25, so that we are prepared for the Ministry Board meeting on Wednesday, September 27. If you are not able to give an over-and-above gift right now, please don’t feel left out. Our on-going challenge is to increase our on-going weekly offerings by 4.5% if we are to fund our current ministry plan.

HURRICANE RELIEF OFFERING

Our hearts go out to those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Thankfully we have heard from our former pastor, John Backus, that his congregation and home in Clearwater, Florida suffered no major damage, nor did our other sister churches in Florida. However, the needs are great in both Texas and Florida. We will send all gifts received for “Harvey” to WELS Christian Aid and Relief who will use these gifts to help our Christian relief efforts in both states. To make it easy for you to respond to this need, you can give in two ways:



- Text 414-316-6733. In the message put a dollar sign, a space, and the word “Harvey.” For example: \$100 Harvey.
- Go to www.stpaulmuskego.org/give or use the QR code. You will find Harvey in the giving list.

OUR SERMON SERIES CONTINUES



Soul Searching

September 25

Meaning: Why Are We Here?

Genesis 2:17-18

Am I here to have fun? Am I here to somehow make the world a better place? Is there no way for me to know why I’m really here?

October 1

Morality: What Is Good?

Genesis 3:1-15

Who determines what’s right and wrong? Shouldn’t the individual have the right to determine that for himself or herself? That sounds good to me. But how is that actually going to work in the real world? Is morality subjective or objective?

October 8

Destiny: Where Are We Going When We Die? Genesis 3:16-24

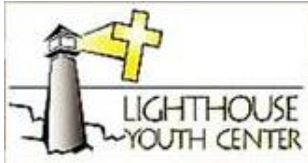
Is there life after death? If there is, what will that life be like? From a completely human perspective it would appear as though this life is all there is. When you die, you’re dead.

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

THE HYMNS OF MARTIN LUTHER - JOINT CHOIR CONCERT

In this 500th anniversary Reformation year, three notable choirs are joining forces to celebrate Martin Luther's legacy as poet and composer — Wisconsin Lutheran College Choir (directed by St. Paul's member Dr. James Nowack), the Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee, and the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chorus. Join the over 200 voices accompanied by organist and instruments to sing and rejoice in 15 of Luther's greatest and most enduring hymns on Sunday, October 1, at 7:30 pm, at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Auditorium in Mequon.

FUND A FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER AT LIGHTHOUSE



As another way to provide support to our mission partner Garden Homes Lutheran Church and the Lighthouse Youth Center, a St. Paul's member has offered to match donations up to \$500 to be used to provide food for Friday night suppers for kids at the Lighthouse Youth Center in the Garden Homes neighborhood. The staff at Lighthouse would then buy, prepare, and serve the food. If you or your group is interested in contributing, please contact Dr. Nelson at (414) 750-2586 or jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH MINISTRY HITS NEW RECORD

Last Sunday was the "kick off" for St. Paul's Kids Club (3K-6th Grade) and Boost (7-8th Grade) ministries. 117 youth attended in what is now the new record, besting last year's 82 (see picture). We still have plenty of room, and our staff of 29 is eager to use the Sunday morning hour (9:15-10:15 am) to help kids see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly. If you and your child are interested in joining the faith-building fun, simply come to the Trinity Café and follow the signs to your child's grade-specific classroom to register. Parents' Club begins this Sunday (September 17) in the school as well. Follow the signs.



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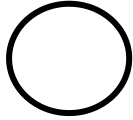
TUG LASER TAG WAS A BLAST !



Last Sunday found 21 teens and 6 adults at Laser Tag Adventure in Waukesha. The evening event was planned by teen Elizabeth Eilertson with the help of teen Kyle Aggen and was a real success. This was the first event under our new TUG format of the 2nd Sunday of the

month fun or service activity planned by teens, and the 4th Sunday of the month a "TUG-Talk" small group discussion. The next TUG is Sunday, September 24, at which we will continue our discussion on teen suicide, using the Netflix series *Thirteen Reasons Why* as a catalyst for conversation. TUG is held in the Trinity Café, from 6:30 til 8:00 pm. It is open to all St. Paul's teens and their friends.





GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. Check in with your fellow group members – what were everyone’s high’s and low’s from the past week? Pray for each other!

2. This weekend we began our four week series on “Worldview.”
 - What did you know about that concept before this weekend?
 - How would you describe your personal Worldview (the framework through which we understand the world) to someone else?

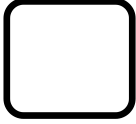
3. Every worldview must answer four questions: *Where did I come from? What is life’s meaning? How do I define right from wrong? And what happens to me when I die?* Which of these four questions are most challenging for you to discuss with an unbeliever?

4. As Christians, we believe that Genesis holds the complete and true account of the origin of the world. Read Genesis 1:1-31 together and take a moment to consider and discuss two things:
 - What does this account [of creation] tell you about our Creator?
 - Creation wasn’t complete without Adam and Eve. Why should that give us confidence as we consider our worth and existence today?

5. For a lot of us – even the strongest among us – believing the biblical account of creation can be challenging in the face of an unbelieving world. What has helped you (or others around you) though the times you may have been tempted to doubt God’s Word?

6. French moralist and essayist Joseph Joubert once said, *“The aim of argument or discussion, should not be victory, but progress.”* Why is it important to be aware of this idea when talking with people who hold opposing Worldviews?

7. Read Psalm 139:13-18. Close out your group’s time together with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for how fearfully and wonderfully we each are made.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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