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## SOUL SEARCHING

### WHY ARE WE HERE?

September 23, 24, and 27, 2017

*Am I here to have fun? To make a name for myself? To die with the most toys? Why am I here? The answers we come up with aren't really satisfying. But when the Bible talks about why we're here, it makes sense. I begin to see that I have meaning and purpose that reach far beyond myself and this broken world.*

#### BELLS AND WELCOME

#### OPENING HYMN 478

#### With the Lord Begin Your Task

#### BAPTISM (Sunday 9:15 am)

Brock Steven Schneider

*Son of Zachary and Brittany (nee Buffalo) Schneider, born July 22, 2017*

*Everly Taylor Schneider*

*Daughter of Justin and Kristina (nee Ettmayer) Schneider, born August 11, 2017*

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

C **Amen.**

M Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, in his pursuit to find happiness and meaning in life King Solomon devoted his life first to gaining wisdom and then to experiencing pleasure. Yet in all these things he didn't find what he was looking for.

C **"Meaningless, meaningless," Solomon says, "everything is meaningless. What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?" (Ecclesiastes 1:2, 3)**

M The problem lies with us and the sinful nature within us that pushes us to pursue meaning, purpose, and happiness, outside of God, to worship the created thing instead of the Creator. Fully aware of the gravity of our spiritual weakness and the eternal consequences of our sin, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

All **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,**

**For sins of habit and sins of choice,**

**For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,**

**You should cast me away from your presence forever.**

**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

M Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

RESPONSE HYMN 239 vv. 1, 2

Glory Be to God the Father

Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit,  
Great Jehovah, Three in One!  
Glory, glory While eternal ages run!

Glory be to him who loved us,  
Washed us from each spot and stain;  
Glory be to him who bought us,  
Made us kings with him to reign!  
Glory, glory To the Lamb that once was slain!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you**

M Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, when you created our first parents, you gave them a beautiful garden to tend and care for.

C **You told them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.**

M You give us meaning and purpose in countless vocations and pursuits, in family and friends, in growing in and sharing your message of love through the local church.

C **In whatever we do, teach us to find joy in serving you.**

M We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

C **and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

**Ecclesiastes 2:17-26**, Bible page 663

*All that we do under the sun seems meaningless...until we understand the purpose for which God created us.*

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus declared: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Alleluia (*John 6:35*).

GOSPEL

**John 6:25-35**, Bible page 1069

*Jesus encourages us to work for food that endures to eternal life.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 459

**O God, My Faithful God**

SERMON

**Genesis 2:18-25**, Bible page 3

*Pastor Peter Panitzke*

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Saturday*)  
(*Sunday 7:45 am*)  
(*Sunday 9:15 am*)

*Who Am I, David Weise*  
*Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God, Maria Schultz*  
*Creation Sings the Father's Song, Junior Choir*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us to be his own, so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

O holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Your glory, earth and heaven  
In countless ways recite.  
Hosanna! Come and save us,  
Lord God of hosts on high,  
And in your grace and mercy  
Receive our fervent cry.

Hosanna in the highest!  
How truly blest is he  
Who in God's name is coming  
To set his people free!  
He comes to bring salvation  
And with his blood outpoured,  
Deliver us from bondage—  
Hosanna, mighty Lord!

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please see Communion note on page 6.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 477  
469

**What Is the World to Me**  
**Take My Life and Let It Be**

## SONG OF SIMEON

Lord, now let your servant  
Depart in peace, assured:  
For I have seen your promised  
Incarnate, saving Word—  
A Light that will enlighten  
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;  
The brilliant, crowning glory  
Of those in Israel!

All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever three in one;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.

## CLOSING PRAYER

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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

**PRESIDING MINISTER** (Sunday) *Pastor David Kuehl*

**ORGANIST** *Nicole Greanya*

## OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

*The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.*

*We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. Please ask one of our pastors for the date when the next class begins.*

*If you are a member of St. Paul's or a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to express our common confession by communing with us. You may wish to use the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on page 156 of Christian Worship to examine yourself. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card and placing it in the offering plate.*

*The light colored cups in the center of the individual cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine. Gluten-free wafers are located in the trays on the Communion rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform an usher as you approach the rail. The first pews in the left center section are reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail, and we kindly ask those who desire to be communed privately to use these pews.*

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of September 25, 2017

<b>MON</b>	10:00 am 5:45 pm 7:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Grief Share (Church Library) <i>Through the Bible in a Year</i> Bible Study (Grace Room)
<b>TUE</b>	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Ministerial Team Meeting Ladies Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony) <i>No Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (resumes October 3)
<b>WED</b>	1:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	No <i>Through the Bible In a Year</i> Bible Study (resumes October 4) Public School Confirmation Classes Chapel Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
<b>THURS</b>	6:30 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
<b>FRI</b>		No Lutheran Elementary School – Teacher In-Service
<b>SAT</b>	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service
<b>SUN</b>	7:45 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:45 am 10:15 am 10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service Traditional Worship Service Grace Room Bible Study Parents Club (School Classroom 8) Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries The Bridge Communion The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service

## 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

## “DOOR OF HOPE” OFFERING UPDATE

We have received over \$93,000 in special gifts or commitments. We are exceedingly thankful for these gifts. The Ministry Board will be meeting on Wednesday, September 27, to hear the results of these special gifts and the pattern of our regular General Fund giving in the first three months of the fiscal year. Pray for them as they will consider if our giving will enable us to fund our ministry plan as it currently is or if cuts are still necessary.

If you are able to give a special Door of Hope or General Fund offering, go to [www.stpaulmuskego.org/give](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org/give) to give a one-time or recurring gift. You may also use the QR code at right to access our mobile-giving site.



## OUR SERMON SERIES CONTINUES

### 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.



# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## **WEDDING**

Jesse Trentacosti and April Angrick-Kurer were joined in marriage on Saturday, September 16, 2017. May God bless Jesse and April in their marriage together in Christ.

## **FLOWERS**

The flowers beautifying the altar have been given in joyful celebration of Richard and Joanne Plutschack's 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by their family.

## **KNOWN HOSPITALIZED**

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home, and June Fickau has been transferred to Linden Grove in Mukwonago. Jim Haag and Carl Wauer 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**

1202 attended worship services last week.

## **THE HYMNS OF MARTIN LUTHER - JOINT CHOIR CONCERT – OCTOBER 1**

In this 500<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **REFORMATION 500 CELEBRATION FESTIVAL SERVICE – NOVEMBER 5**

St. Paul's will be celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **WELS SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN JOINT REFORMATION 500 CELEBRATION – NOVEMBER 5**

A special joint congregational festival service observing the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation will take place on Sunday, November 5, at 3:30 pm at the Miller High Life Theatre in Milwaukee. An adult and children's choir will beautify the service, along with organ, piano, and dozens of instruments.

## **STORAGE NEEDED FOR LIVING NATIVITY STABLE**

The barn where the Living Nativity set/stable is currently stored has been sold and will no longer accommodate our Living Nativity set. We need to have the set moved out by the end of September. The stable walls, floor, and ceiling do break down into pieces and only need to be accessed once every 2 years. If you are able to provide a home for these items or can provide a referral of a location, please contact Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner at (414) 422-0320, ext. 294, or [swallner@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:swallner@stpaulmuskego.org).

# 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. Mark the Connection Card or contact Pastor Panitzke at [ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org) to register for these classes.

## **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](mailto: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**

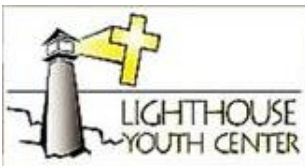
Our small group Bible studies are currently focusing on Jay Seegert's 4-week creation science curriculum. Jay is a well-known author and international speaker who has been lecturing on the authority of Scripture and science for 31 years. You will have the opportunity to hear Jay speak and ask your toughest 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**

You are 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.



## **FUND A FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER AT LIGHTHOUSE**

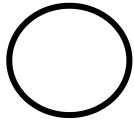


As another way to provide support to our mission partner Garden Homes Lutheran Church and the Lighthouse Youth Center, a St. Paul's member has offered to match donations up to \$500 to be used to provide food for Friday night suppers for kids at the Lighthouse Youth Center in the Garden Homes neighborhood. 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](mailto:jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org).

## **TEENS UNDER GOD**

The next TUG is Sunday, September 24. 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 until 8:00 pm. It is open to all St. Paul's teens and their friends.





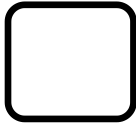
# GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

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1. Share highs and lows and pray for each other.
  
2. How does the question of purpose - "*Why are we here*" - sit with you? Does it stress you out to think about it or does it excite you to consider the possibilities?
  
3. How have you been influenced by the purposes of life that a secular worldview offers?
  
4. Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-26
  - Work is a big part of "what" we do, but does that mean it's "why" we're here?
  - How does Ecclesiastes 2:24 help us properly position work and purpose?
  
5. Psalm 19:1 says "*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*" What a simple, yet powerful purpose the heavens and earth hold. Do you think it's possible that the world tempts us as Christians to over-complicate our purpose? If so, how?
  
6. Imagine what worship was like in the Garden before the fall when Adam and Eve could have walked with the LORD God in the cool of the day. How could that experience have helped them remember their purpose in life? How can we recreate that experience?
  
7. What was your biggest "A-Ha!" from this weekend's message? What might you change in your life because of this new awareness?
  
8. Can you think of someone in your life who is hanging their purpose on something temporary? Share this person's first name with the group (if you are comfortable) and commit to praying for this list of names each day this week.



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

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## Understanding Worldview – Yours and Others

1. **Where did I come from? (Sept 17)**
2. **Why am I here? (Sept 24)**
3. **What is “good”? (Oct 1)**
4. **Where am I going when I die? (Oct 8)**

**Today: Why am I here?  
(Genesis 2:15-25, page 3)**

**Who or what is your Eliakim?** (Isaiah 22:20-25, page 700)

### Your Purpose in Life: The Secular Worldview

- Pleasure or happiness? (Ecclesiastes 2:1-3, page 663)
- Success? (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11, page 663)
- A relationship?
- A person?
- A cause?

### Your Purpose in Life: The Biblical Worldview

- To serve the LORD God (Romans 12:1-2)
  - In the vocation to which He has called you (Genesis 2:15; 1 Corinthians 10:31)
  - In the relationships into which He has placed you (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 10:42)
- To walk with the LORD God in worship (Genesis 2:16-17, 25)

### My Next Steps

- Read Genesis 1-3 to prepare for the remaining worldview questions: What is “good”? Where will I go when I die?
- Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:31, “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”
- Consider joining a small group, the *Following the Promise* new member study, or the *Reading Through the Bible* study to further understand the Biblical worldview. Check interest on the Connection Card.