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## UNEXPECTED

### BIASED?

October 24, 25, and 28, 2020

*Could God be biased? Does he favor some people over others? Does church history reveal God's bias? Does the church practice bias? The Parable of the Wedding Garment provides unexpected answers.*

### 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. Face masks are available from the ushers if you are without one. 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

### HYMN

### How Deep the Father's Love for Us

*Our opening hymn marvels at the greatest wonder this world has ever witnessed—our heavenly Father sacrificing his Son for sinful human beings like us.*

**How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory**

**Behold the man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished**

**I will not boast in anything  
 No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
 But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
 His death and resurrection  
 Why should I gain from His reward?  
 I cannot give an answer  
 But this I know with all my heart  
 His wounds have paid my ransom**

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

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Scriptures repeatedly remind us that God is an impartial judge.

C **“Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism”**  
*(Colossians 3:25).*

M These are sobering words. For we know full well the frightening extent of our wrongs. We truly deserve God’s eternal wrath and punishment. Yet Jesus, our Savior, carried the punishment we deserved to the cross and paid the price in full. Confident of God’s mercy, we humble ourselves before him and confess our sin.

All **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Help me to live faithfully as part of your family.**

M God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and empowers us to be his people. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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

*After a brief introduction, all sing:*

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the  
 2 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom  
 Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise  
 heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the an -  
 forth - tell; Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.  
 gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we praise you for your grace and mercy. You are an impartial judge, but you also freely lavish forgiveness on all through your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach us to declare your love without partiality or favoritism and to serve as instruments of healing and peace in a world that has become increasingly divided. We pray in Jesus' name. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

**Acts 10:34-43**

*God opens Peter's eyes to see the universality of God's love and grace.*

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached — <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

<sup>39</sup> "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen — by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

### VERSE OF THE DAY

**Galatians 3:27-28**

M Alleluia! Alleluia! All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

**Matthew 22:1-14**

*Jesus shares the parable of the wedding banquet, underscoring the fact that God's gospel invitation is open to all.*

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

<sup>4</sup>“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

<sup>5</sup>“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. <sup>6</sup>The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

<sup>8</sup>“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. <sup>9</sup>So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ <sup>10</sup>So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup>He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

<sup>13</sup>“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

<sup>14</sup>“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

## The 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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY 521**

**Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace**

*Our message song is a prayer that God would graciously work in our hearts the same unbiased love that he has for all.*

**Lord of all nations, grant me grace  
To love all people, ev'ry race,  
And in each person help me view  
My kindred, loved, redeemed by you.**

**Break down the wall that would divide  
Your children, Lord, on ev'ry side.  
My neighbors' good let me pursue;  
Bind them to me and all to you.**

**Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred  
By loveless act and thoughtless word.  
Make me to see the wrong I do  
Will hurt my neighbor, Lord, and you.**

**SERMON**

**Matthew 21:1-14**

*The Parable of the Wedding Banquet*

*Pastor Pete Panitzke*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**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.**

**DISMISSAL OF ONLINE WORSHIPPERS** *(Sunday 9:15 am)*

**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 hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**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.

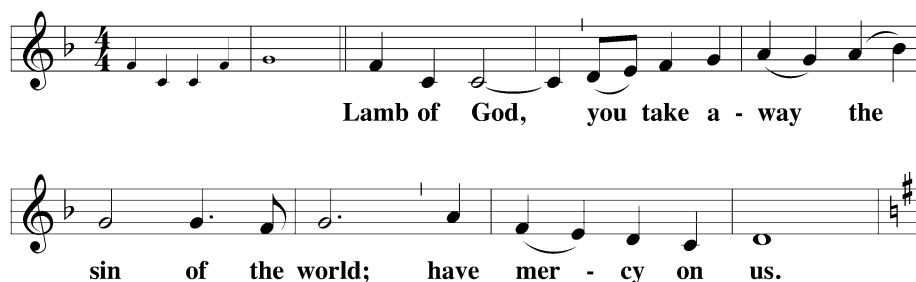
**C** Amen.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

#### LAMB OF GOD



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

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 9.*

*We will distribute the Lord's body and blood using "continuous Communion." As you stand in line in the center aisle, please maintain social distance from the person in front of you. Cup your hands to receive the wafer. Pause as the pastor says, "Take and eat. The body of the Lord." Move to the table and pick up a cup. The pastor will say, "Take and drink. The blood of the Lord." Then dispose of the cup and return to your seat by one of the side aisles. Following the distribution, the pastor will pronounce the general blessing on the communicants.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN 304**

**Jesus Sinners Does Receive**

*God's people find great comfort in knowing that God's grace and forgiveness in Christ is extended to all — including me, the chief of all sinners.*

**Jesus sinners does receive;  
Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live  
And from God and heaven wander.  
Here is hope for all who grieve  
Jesus sinners does receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame,  
Yet his words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
Here their ills have perfect healing  
Who with humble hearts believe  
Jesus sinners does receive.**

Sheep that from the fold did stray  
Are not by the Lord forsaken;  
Weary souls who lost their way  
Are by Christ, the shepherd, taken  
In his arms that they may live  
Jesus sinners does receive.

Come, O sinners, one and all,  
Come, accept his invitation.  
Come, obey his gracious call;  
Come and take his free salvation!  
Firmly in these words believe  
Jesus sinners does receive.

Oh, how blest is it to know,  
Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
By your blood and bitter passion,  
For these words I do believe  
Jesus sinners does receive.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

M Jesus, you came to us today and poured out the riches of your love and grace in your Word and Sacrament.

C **In you we truly have all that we need and more!**

M As we go out into the world, empower us as your forgiven children to give witness to the truth that all are loved by you in Christ.

C **May the light of your love shine in us and through us.**

M We bless you now and forevermore.

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



## 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, entitled *Following the Promise*, to provide an overview of our teachings. Contact Pastor Nate Strobel at [nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org) for more information or to register for the class.

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. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card and placing it in the basket in the church lobby.

### **YOUR MINISTERIAL STAFF** Office (414) 422-0320

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	<a href="mailto:jbbonack@stpaulmuskego.org">jbbonack@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Worship and Counseling
Mr. Randy Fink	Ext. 120	<a href="mailto:rfink@stpaulmuskego.org">rfink@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Church Administrator
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons	Ext. 118	<a href="mailto:sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org">sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org</a>	School Administrator/Principal
Pastor David Kuehl	Ext. 121	<a href="mailto:dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org">dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Member Care and Engagement
Dr. Joel Nelson	Ext. 145	<a href="mailto:jnelson@stpaulmusekgo.org">jnelson@stpaulmusekgo.org</a>	Youth and Adult Discipleship
Pastor Peter Panitzke	Ext. 122	<a href="mailto:ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org">ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Ministerial Team Leader
Mrs. Heidi Schuh	Ext. 115	<a href="mailto:hschuh@stpmuskego.org">hschuh@stpmuskego.org</a>	Asst. Director of Worship Operations
Pastor Nate Strobel	Ext. 293	<a href="mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org">nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Resident Missionary
Mrs. Sally Wallner	Ext. 294	<a href="mailto:swallner@stpaulmuskego.org">swallner@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Community Outreach Coordinator
Mr. Mike Westendorf	Ext. 295	<a href="mailto:mwestendorf@stpmuskego.org">mwestendorf@stpmuskego.org</a>	Director of Worship Operations

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of October 26, 2020

<b>MON</b>	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
<b>TUE</b>	9:30 am	Ministry Growth Team Meeting (Zoom)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting (Zoom)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Classes (Main Church)
	6:00 pm	Divorce Care (School Classroom 8)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise Bible Study (Online)</i>
<b>WED</b>	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
<b>THURS</b>		No Lutheran Elementary School
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
<b>FRI</b>		No Lutheran Elementary School
<b>SAT</b>	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
<b>SUN</b>	<b>2:00 am</b>	<b>Turn Clocks Back One Hour – Daylight Savings Time Ends</b>
	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service



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.

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# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## BAPTISMS

Millie Rose Schwegel, born January 13, 2020, daughter of Paul and Tracy (nee Wright) Schwegel, was baptized in a private ceremony on Saturday, October 24. Tyus Arthur Wicinski, born August 23, 2020, son of Matthew and Kelly (nee Faherty), was baptized in a private ceremony on Saturday, October 24. May God bless Millie and Tyus in their baptismal faith all their days.

## HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Fred Liermann (hospice care at Autumn Leaves in Franklin), Paul Gionfriddo (Care-Age in Brookfield), Dorrette Probst (home hospice care), Brittany Michaels (Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina), and Les Constantineau (Waukesha Memorial). Dick Garbe, Teresa (and baby Chase) Krahn, Wesley Fischer, and Randy Duemke have been discharged from the hospital, and Linda Miksch has transferred to Linden Grove Mukwonago.

## ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 78 on Saturday, 62 on Sunday 7:45 am, 132 on Sunday 9:15 am, 112 at The Bridge, 34 on Sunday 10:45, and 21 on Wednesday.

## WHEN IS THIS GOING TO END?

Survivors of 2020 are tired of the pandemic and the political divisions. Stress outside our homes causes stress inside many of our homes. When is this going to end?

We are not the first to ask this question. During the End Times season of the Church Year, let's look to some Old Testament mentors, four composers who ask the same question: When is this going to end?



- |                              |          |                   |             |
|------------------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|
| • The End of Guilt and Stain | Psalm 46 | Reformation       | November 1  |
| • The End of Sin's Reign     | Psalm 90 | Last Judgment     | November 8  |
| • The End of Grief and Pain  | Psalm 84 | Saints Triumphant | November 15 |
| • The End of Satan's Domain  | Psalm 47 | Christ the King   | November 22 |

## DONATE BLOOD ON OUR CAMPUS – THE NEED HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER

Due to the pandemic, many have not been getting out to donate blood. Blood banks are in very short supply. One of our members who is battling cancer informed us, "I need to wait longer to receive a blood transfusion right now if my blood counts dip after chemotherapy. The standard before COVID was a hemoglobin of 8 or below to qualify a person to receive blood, now cancer patients have to wait until hemoglobin drops to 7 or below. The difference is real."



We will be making our facilities available for three blood drives in the near future. Save the date for November 17, December 1, or December 17. Contact the Red Cross at 1(800) 733-2767 or Versiti Blood Center at 1(877) 232-4376 for more details on how to sign up for those dates. The need has never been greater!

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## ST. PAUL'S PARENTS AND TEACHERS ARE THANKFUL FOR IN PERSON SCHOOL!

There has been definite excitement in the air among students and teachers since school began. We count our blessings everyday that our students remain COVID free.

Parents have had the following positive comments to say:

"A win for our family is listening to the excitement in our 6th grader's voice as he has shared twice now, 'Guess how I did on my History test?' And sharing with other's it's one of his favorite subjects."

"My 2nd grader can not stop talking about how much fun she is having each and every day. The Sparkle game is one of her favorites!"

"My kindergartener was playing school with the neighbor. Part of that day's "lesson" was both girls making up their own song about how much they love their teacher. My daughter's also included a verse about how much God loves us. So glad she has such a caring and positive environment in which to learn."

"Our daughter thinks hot lunch is the coolest thing! She just decided to take it one day while not eating the lunch I sent with her. She's been hooked ever since!"

The Pre-K teachers have reported the following positive happenings in their classrooms:

"My win at the beginning of the 3K year is always to get the kids comfortable with school and being away from mom and dad. When they walk into school with a smile on their face that is a win! Some may take longer to get there, but each child that gets there is a win! Also, doing a worship lesson in person and being able to see their sweet faces and hear their sweet voices!"

"This morning each child was brave enough to say our Bible words all alone. Also, one of them said that they didn't need me to tell them how much time was left in the day (He was happy enough to stay and not worry about going home - hooray!)."

"We have had three students add a day to their weekly schedules because they are enjoying school so much. Two in 3K and one in 4K."

God teaches us in Proverbs 16:9, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." We have good plans in place at school, and we continue to pray that the Lord keeps our kids here in school, with their classmates and teachers, enjoying classroom laughs and learning, recess, hot lunch, and all the other things that make our Lutheran school a great place to be...because the Joy of Jesus is here! His will be done. Amen.



# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## **FOLLOWING THE PROMISE—TUESDAYS**

The fall session of Following the Promise, is running for 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 your interest to Pastor Nate at (414) 426-8236, email him at [nstrobels@stpasmuskego.org](mailto:nstrobels@stpasmuskego.org), or register on the back of your Connection Card. This class serves as a path to membership at St. Paul's.

## **ONLINE BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR PETE**

Every other Thursday, Pastor Pete leads a Zoom Bible study at 7:00 pm. The next study will be on November 5. Register on the Connection Card or simply click the Zoom link that will be sent out just prior to the study.

## **GOD'S GUYS STUDY THE BOOK OF JAMES**

*God's Guys*, St. Paul's Saturday morning men's Bible study group, is studying the book of James. Pastor Mark Jeske from *Time of Grace* wrote the People's Bible commentary on James and will be a guest presenter for *God's Guys* on Saturday, November 7. Bring a friend and join us for breakfast at 8:00 am, with Bible study beginning at 8:30 am. The book of James deals with the practical applications of Christian life. For more information contact Bruce Marggraf at (262) 679-4725.

## **EMPOWERING SURVIVORS OF ABUSE (FACILITATOR TRAINING)**

Thank you to all who joined us for our initial training session on October 17. It was a great day of learning. Recorded copies of those sessions are available to anyone interested in viewing them. Contact Pastor Bonack ([jbonack@stpaulmuskegor.org](mailto:jbonack@stpaulmuskegor.org)) for more information. The date for our second more in-depth training is Saturday November 7. The session will be held in the church Grace Room from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and will equip individuals with the skills needed for support group facilitation. If you are interested in joining us for this training or would simply like more information, please contact Pastor Bonack.

## **CHURCH PICKLEBALL**

Join our church pickleball league. It meets most Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, through December 17. Invite a friend and introduce them to our campus while having tons of fun. Come when you can. No season commitment needed. A flyer with all the details is at the Welcome Center in the lobby. More information can also be found by searching pickleball on our website at [www.stpaulmuskego.org](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org) or by contacting Cindy Proeber at (414) 801-2845 or [cindy.proeber@accuratediedesign.com](mailto:cindy.proeber@accuratediedesign.com).



## **DIVORCECARE**

We are launching the new and updated DivorceCare group materials, beginning November 10, 2020. If you have been part of DivorceCare in the past, come and share how God has brought healing into your life. If you have experienced or are experiencing the pain of divorce, please come and find hope and healing in Jesus. We meet Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 in the school building, Room #8. For more information on DivorceCare go to [divorcecare.org](http://divorcecare.org). Call or email Kristen Miller if you have questions or to register at [kmiller@stpasmuskego.org](mailto:kmiller@stpasmuskego.org) or 414-422-0320, ext. 130.

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER OPENINGS IN THE INFANT AND TODDLER ROOMS

Our child care center has openings in the infant and toddler rooms. Please contact Tammy Dockter for a tour of the facility and for more information at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or [dockterta@stpmuskego.org](mailto:dockterta@stpmuskego.org).

## ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER IS HIRING

Our child care center is in need of substitute aides that would fill in for employee vacations with advance notice and occasionally last minute for sick employees. Please contact Tammy Dockter at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or [dockterta@stpmuskego.org](mailto:dockterta@stpmuskego.org) for more information and to apply.

## OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Express your appreciation for our pastors during October; it's Pastor Appreciation Month. Acknowledge their compassion, hard work, leadership, and faithful service given all year through. A simple thank-you in person or via email, voice message, card, or other personal acknowledgment will mean so much to our pastors and their families.

## JOIN US LIVE ONLINE

If you can't join us in person, join us online!

### Traditional Service

Our Sunday, 9:15 am, traditional service is livestreamed every Sunday. A video archive of sermons and full-service replays are available on each platform below.



@ [www.StPaulMuskego.org/online-worship](http://www.StPaulMuskego.org/online-worship)



@ St. Paul's Muskego



@ St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Muskego, Wisconsin

### The Bridge Casual Contemporary Service

The Bridge 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.



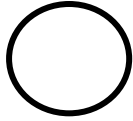
@ [www.StPaulMuskego.org/online-worship](http://www.StPaulMuskego.org/online-worship)



@ The Bridge Church Muskego



@ The Bridge at St. Paul's



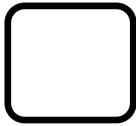
## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

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1. Where do you see God active in your life over the course of this past week?
  
2. Read Matthew 22:1-14. What might lead you to accept or decline an invitation to a wedding reception?
  
3. Read Romans 9:1-5. What are some of the spiritual advantages the Jews enjoyed?
  
4. Pastor referenced God's "bias" that many of us have experienced. What are some spiritual advantages you enjoy that many others in the world or in your community do not have? (Think about your family of origin, your church, your schooling, etc.)
  
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 6:2. We are God's ambassadors, the servants sent out to invite people to the Wedding Banquet of the parable. Share from this reading:
  - a. Our motivation for being Christ's ambassadors (vv.14-15)
  
  - b. Our new world view about others (vv. 16-17)
  
  - c. The importance you see in the word "world" in 2 Corinthians 5:19
  
6. Thinking back to the parable of Matthew 22:1-14, why do you think Jesus added the surprise ending about the man not wearing the wedding garment?
  
7. Share one application from this parable that motivates you to change something about your life.



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

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## “Unexpected” Message Series

### Is God Biased?

### Matthew 22:1-14

#### 2. A biased invitation

- a. God’s bias toward the \_\_\_\_\_
  - “Salvation is from the Jews” (John 4:22).
  - “Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples” (Psalm 96:3).
- b. God’s bias toward \_\_\_\_\_
  - “You are a chosen people...” (1 Peter 2:9)
  - “that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness...”
- c. “To whom much is given...” (Luke 12:48)

#### 3. An unbiased invitation

- a. “Invite anyone you can find... good and bad.”
- b. An unbiased invitation provides certainty to the invite \_\_\_\_\_ and the invite \_\_\_\_\_
  - “Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the \_\_\_\_\_” (John 1:19).
  - “God was reconciling the \_\_\_\_\_ to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them” (2 Corinthians 5:19).
  - “God wants \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved” (2 Timothy 2:4).

#### 4. A biased selection

- a. Welcome if dressed in Christ’s j \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness
- b. Welcome if dressed in Christ’s s \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness

### My Next Steps

- **Contemplate God’s bias toward you.** What spiritual advantages do you enjoy that many others do not? (Think of family of origin, church background, opportunities, etc.)
- **Claim God’s unbiased invitation:** What guilt and shame do you bear that makes you feel unworthy to attend God’s Wedding Feast? Find a trusted Christian friend or pastor with whom you can share that burden. Let them announce God’s unbiased invitation to you.
- **Proclaim God’s unbiased invitation:** Who in your circle of friends may feel unworthy of God’s love? Pray for an opportunity to share God’s unbiased invitation. Memorize John 1:19 in preparation.