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THE INTENTIONAL LIFE

LOVE UNCOMFORTABLY

January 9, 10, and 13, 2021

An intentional life is a life of love. Love gives comfort to the recipient, but for the giver, love is often uncomfortable. It requires an intentional commitment to self-sacrifice. Am I willing to love uncomfortably?

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

OPENING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold, As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright, So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore your foll'wers be.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to your lowly bed, There to bend the knee before You whom heav'n and earth adore, So may we with willing feet Ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At your cradle, rude and bare, So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.

- M In the name of the Father, who is the "Father of the heavenly lights," and of the + Son, who is the "Light of the world," and of the Holy Spirit, who reveals that light of God's love and grace to us through the gospel.
- C Amen.
- M Without the Light of Jesus our hearts are dark.
- C In this darkness sin finds a welcomed home.

- M But we do not live in darkness anymore. Jesus has shined his light into our hearts. We not only see the ugliness of our sin, we hate sin. For this reason, we choose not to hide our sin, but to expose it by confessing it freely:
- All Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- M God, our heavenly Father, has 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.
- Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way; And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds your glory hide.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, as you once led the Magi to worship, so you have led us to this place. We have come to offer you our gifts of worship and praise,

C as well as hearts and minds that are eager to grow in spiritual understanding and wisdom.

M We long to hear your voice. Speak to us of your love, your grace, and your salvation. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 49:5-7

God's desire to save will not be satisfied until the whole world knows of his forgiving love.

And now the LORD says—

he who formed me in the womb to be his servant

to bring Jacob back to him

and gather Israel to himself,

for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD

and my God has been my strength—

⁶he says:

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant

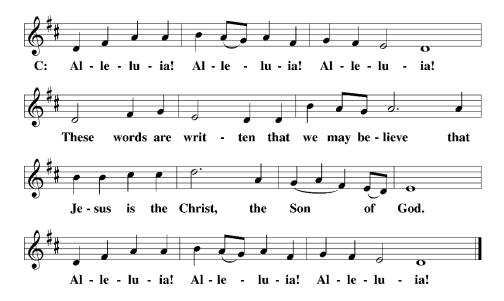
to restore the tribes of Jacob

and bring back those of Israel I have kept.

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." 'This is what the LORD says the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: "Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful,

the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

VERSE OF THE DAY



Gospel

Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus calls us to pray for more believers who are working to share God's saving love with the world around them.

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

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

Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations

Rise, O Light of Gentile nations, Jesus, bright and Morning Star; Let your Word, the gladsome tidings, Ring out loudly near and far, Bringing freedom to the captives, Peace and comfort to the slave, That the heathen, free from bondage, May proclaim your pow'r to save.

Knowing you and your salvation, Grateful love dare never cease To proclaim your tender mercies, Gracious Lord, your heav'nly peace. Let us sound the gospel tidings To the earth's remotest bound That the sinner has been pardoned And forgiveness can be found.

Savior, shine in all your glory On the nations near and far; From the highways and the byways Call them forth, O Morning Star. Guide them whom your grace has chosen Out of Satan's dreadful thrall To the mansions of your Father -- There is room for sinners all.

SERMON

1 Corinthians 9:22 *Pastor Peter Panitzke*

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

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 WORSHIPERS (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 our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

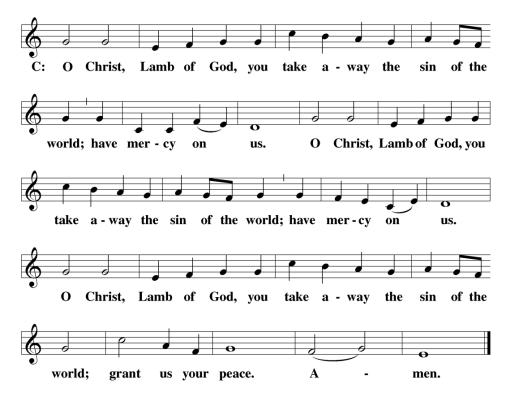
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.





DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion not on page 8.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

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!

I Hear the Savior Calling

CLOSING PRAYER

- M Merciful Father, we give you thanks and praise that you have fed us with the precious body and blood of your dear Son for the forgiveness of our sin. By your grace fill us with the desire and the power to walk worthy of our holy calling and to reflect your glory in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

COMMUNION PROCEDURE

There will be two lines for distribution at most of our services. The church will be split in half. The two sections in front of the pulpit will receive Communion using the table in front of the pulpit. The two sections in front of the lectern will receive Communion using the table in front of the lectern.

Ushers will dismiss communicants from their pew; **however, no one will be dismissed to the center aisle.**

- *The pulpit side* will go to their *left* and use the aisle to the left of their pew to walk forward.
- *The lectern side* will dismiss to their *right* and use the aisle to the right of their pew to walk forward.

Communicants will wait in the aisle, socially distanced as indicated by the carpet circles. They will approach the individual distributing the bread, receiving the bread in cupped hands as he speaks. They will then move toward the center of the church to the wine trays, pick up their wine and drink it as the distributor speaks. All will return to their pew using the center aisle. Following the distribution, the pastor will pronounce the general blessing on the communicants.

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. Following the Promise is currently being held on Tuesday evenings. We invite you to register for this class on the back of your Connection Card or by contacting Pastor Strobel at nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org.

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" of Christian Worship to examine yourself. These prayers can be found at the Welcome Center in the lobby. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card.

The light-colored cups contain non-alcoholic wine. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform the distributer as you approach to receive the bread.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Main Church)	
TUE	9 :30 am	Ministry Growth Team Meeting	
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Main Church)	
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting	
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Classes (In person)	
	6:00 pm	Divorce Care (School Classroom 8)	
	6:30 pm	Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library)	
	7:00 pm	Following the Promise Bible Study (Online)	
WED	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)	
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion	
THURS	10:00 am	Walking Club (Main Church)	
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)	
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service	
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service	
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service	
	9:15 am	, Kids Club	
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion	
	10:15 am	The Bridge	
	10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service	

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Brittany Michaels (Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina), and Dorrette Probst (home hospice care). Teresa Krahn has been discharged from the hospital.

FUNERAL

Marvin Pellmann, born December 21, 1929, entered eternal peace with his Savior on January 6, 2021. Funeral arrangements will be finalized in the future. May the God of all hope and comfort be with the loved ones of Marvin.

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last weekend's services: 71 on Saturday, 62 on Sunday 7:45 am, 75 on Sunday 9:15 am, 132 at The Bridge, 24 on Sunday 10:45 am, and 27 on Wednesday. 94 attended on New Year's Eve.

GET INTO THE WORD IN 2021

If you are interested in a new Bible reading plan for 2021, there are copies of a reading plan available at the Welcome Center that will take you through the entire Bible in one year. Pastor Pete Panitzke reads the same Bible readings for his own spiritual growth each day as well. If you aren't receiving his daily email with summaries of the readings for the day, please call the church office at (414) 422-0320 to have your email added. If you have any questions about what you read for the day, you are encouraged to contact Pastor Pete at ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE CLASS BEGINS JANUARY 12

For twelve *Tuesdays* in a row (with the option to miss a class and catch up on YouTube) this *online-only* class is offered 7:00-8:15 pm and covers the main teachings of the Bible. Review or discover the *heart* of your Creator in the work of his Son *Jesus*. Jesus entered the world to save us from sin and bring us safely home to heaven. He lived perfectly in our place, died the death we deserve, and rose from the dead proving that *heaven is ours* through faith in him. A path to membership if you like or just touching base with the God of the Bible to hear what he has to say!

DivorceCare

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. *DivorcCare* meets Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 in the school building, Room #8. For more information visit divorcecare.org or contact Kristen Miller at kmiller@stpmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 130.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION IN FALL

Families with children entering Grade 6 in public schools this fall, are invited to contact Dr. Nelson at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145, or <u>inelson@stpaulmuskego.org</u> to get signed up for Confirmation Instruction 2021-2022 or to obtain information. St. Paul's Confirmation Instruction is a 3 year/3 level program.

TEXT TO GIVE UPDATE

We have a new 'Text to Give' process. Send a text message "stpmuskego" to: **77977**. Within a few minutes you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click the link and enter your information. For future giving, send a text message "stpmuskego" to: **77977**, and it will take you to your already set-up profile.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

EDUCATION WRAPPED IN FAITH

Have you considered a Christian education for your child? Registration for the 2020-2021 school year has begun for our 3K through grade 8 Lutheran school.

St. Paul's participates in the Milwaukee and Wisconsin Parental School Choice programs. Income eligibility is listed below. Our congregation also provides over \$600,000 in tuition assistance each year. Don't let financial concerns keep you from exploring this opportunity to help your child grow in faith.

Schedule a tour with our Principal Seth Fitzsimmons at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118, or sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org as soon as possible or attend the open house on January 31.

LUTHERAN PREK AND ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 31

January and February are the months where many families are interested in learning more about a school for their child. Whether this is for 3K, 4K, Kindergarten or transferring into $1^{st} - 8^{th}$ grade, all are welcome. Do you know someone like this? If so, invite them to our open house on Sunday, January 31, 1:00-3:00 pm. I would love to talk to them about our schools. For COVID precautions, a sign-up for a time slot will be posted to the school website (www.stpmuskego.org) soon. We will have 3 families per 20 minutes. You may also contact me at sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 118, to set up a visit.

2021-2022 Income Limits for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)					
Family Size	Single Parent Income Limit	Married Parents Income Limit			
2	\$37,928	N/A			
3	\$47,784	\$54,784			
4	\$57,640	\$64,640			
5	\$67,496	\$74,496			
6	\$77,352	\$84,352			
***	Add \$9,856 for each additional family	member			

2021-2022 Income Limits for the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)

Family Size	Single Parent Income Limit	Married Parents Income Limit		
2	\$51,720	N/A		
3	\$65,160	\$72,160		
4	\$78,600	\$85,600		
5	\$92,040	\$99,040		
6	\$105,480	\$112,480		
***Add \$13,440 for each additional family member				

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER IS HIRING

Our Child Care Center is looking to hire a teacher's aide, Monday – Friday, 12:30 – 6:00 pm. These days could be split by 2 people with one working Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and another working Tuesday and Thursday. Some benefits are included. Please contact Tammy Dockter at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200 or <u>dockterta@stpmuskego.org</u> to indicate interest.

ST. PAUL'S CHILD CARE CENTER INFANT AND TODDLER OPENINGS

Our Child Care Center currently has openings in both the infant and toddler rooms. Please contact Tammy Dockter to schedule a tour and for more information at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200 or <u>dockterta@stpmuskego.org</u>.

GIFT TREE 2020 - A VICTORY STORY

GIVING TREE UPDATE FROM YOUR OUTREACH TEAM

The generosity of our congregation and the Muskego community this Christmas was overwhelming. Over 700 gifts were collected to help 80 different people in Muskego. In addition to that, numerous other gifts were given to Northside Ministries and distributed to families in the inner city. We were also able to provide Christmas meals for those who asked.

This gift drive introduced St. Paul's church family to dozens of nonmembers in the community who joined in our efforts through Facebook. The people who gave and the people who received might never have had a reason to connect to St. Paul's otherwise. Thank you for helping make all of this happen.



Below are examples of some of the people you helped and what they had to say in response:

- "Everyone loved their gifts. Thank You for everything you do to keep our residents happy." Angie, Muskego Health Care Center
- "Thank you so very much for the clothes you purchased for my daughter! It will never be forgotten. God bless you!" – Tricia, Single Muskego mom battling cancer and has a 14 yr. old
- "I don't know how to thank you so much. It's everything I wanted and only God knew. How amazing is that?" Jeanne, member in need
- "Thank you so much. I loved everything ♥" Odalys, Mom of 2 yr. old girl needing winter coat/boots
- "Your support and kindness are wonderful examples of mercy to your "neighbors" reflecting that of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. Your gifts help us to reach them with the precious message of salvation through Jesus by providing some food and clothing after Bible studies." – Deaconess Leila Watson, Northside Ministries, inner city

OUR MESSAGE SERIES

THE INTENTIONAL LIFE

Join us, beginning January 10, for a new message series **The Intentional Life.**

In the days of the old sailing ships, the greatest danger sailors faced was not piracy or storms at sea, but simply being "becalmed" hundreds of miles from land.

The word "becalmed" sounds peaceful, but with no wind, a sailing ship could drift aimlessly for days or weeks until the sailors perished from lack of food and water.

In our lives, our most dangerous enemy may be not some sudden temptation, demonic assault, or even the personal "storms" of life, but the danger of simply drifting. The author of the Book of Hebrews warned, "We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away" (Hebrews 2:1).



Are you drifting?

As we begin the new year, we pray that the Holy Spirit (in both Hebrew and Greek the word for "spirit" and "wind" is the same) fill the sails of our lives so that we live with purpose and intention.

Join us as we seek The Intentional Life of Love.

January 17	Love in Action	Galatians 6:2
January 24	Love among Friends	I Thessalonians 5:11
January 31	Love within Families	Joshua 25:15
February 7	Love Generously	Matthew 6:21
February 14	Love to God's Glory	I Corinthians 10:31

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

MARRIAGE MENTORING

Marriage mentoring supports Christ centered marriages through discipleship and fellowship. We do this by pairing *experienced* married couples with *newly* married couples. We are seeking couples who have been married for at least ten years and who would enjoy hosting a newly married couple. The program will begin soon. Couples will be asked to commit for five months, just once a month, and materials will be provided! Please reach out to Meta Rosenberg at <u>mtkolander@gmail.com</u> or (920) 284-0658 if you and your spouse are interested in being mentors.

GOD'S GUYS SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

God's Guys is a St. Paul's Saturday morning men's Bible study group. Bring a friend and join the group in the Faith Room for breakfast at 8:00 am, with Bible study beginning at 8:30 am. For more information contact Bruce Marggraf at (262) 679-4725.

ONLINE STUDY OF REVELATION

Want to study Revelation with Pastor Pete? He will lead a study of online on Thursday evenings, beginning January 14 and continuing every other Thursday. Register your interest on the Connection Card or email him at <u>ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org</u>.

GroupWork Bible Study Discussion Starters Life application materials for use in Life Groups, Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

A Study in Loving Uncomfortably

I Corinthians 8 – 10

Paul is dealing with "adiaphora" or middle things that God has neither forbidden nor commanded. The question with which the Corinthian congregation struggled was: Can I eat meat that was sacrificed to an idol?

The "middle things" that we deal with are as numerous as the sands on the sea. They are reflected in our congregation's core values. What is the right level of mission support? What is the best way to worship? What ministries best show authentic care to our members and our community? How do we best support families? What does generosity or excellence look like? This two-week study of Loving Uncomfortably will prepare us for difficult discussions about living the intentional life of love.



- I. Read I Corinthians 8:1-3. Paul begins this discussion with comments about love. How do you feel when you interact with someone who is very knowledgeable about a subject but does not show you love?
- 2. Read I Corinthians 8:4-13. Your conscience is like a judge making its decision based on God's law as you understand it. To sin against your conscience is to sin against what you believe God wants you to do. Your conscience is "weak" when you have a misunderstanding of God's law.
 - a. Who were the "weak" in this discussion about food sacrificed to idols?
 - b. If eating food sacrificed to idols was not forbidden by God, why would it be so destructive to their spiritual life if they ate food sacrificed to idols?
- **3. Read I Corinthians 9:1-18.** Paul uses himself as an example of choosing to protect the conscience of others, even if it meant limiting what he would do. What are the "rights of an apostle" that Paul freely gave up for the good of his ministry in Corinth?
- 4. Read I Corinthians 9:19-23. Paul became like a Jew, like a person not having the law, like a person who is weak, all to save some. What are some of the cultural divides in our society today? How can you become "like" someone of a different political party, of a different racial background, of a different age group? How can you follow Paul's example and give up some of your "rights" to show people "uncomfortable love"?
- 5. Close with the Lord's Prayer, celebrating our unity as children of our Heavenly Father.



NoteSheet

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

Love Uncomfortably

I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some (1 Corinthians 9:22).

- I. Experience Uncomfortable Love (Acts 9)
 - a. Uncomfortable e_____ (Matthew 5:21-30)
 - b. Uncomfortable c_____ (John 20:30-31)
- 2. Love Uncomfortable People (| Corinthians 9:19-23)
 - a. Uncomfortable to us

Examples: _____

EXCELLENCE OUTREACH GENEROSITY FAMILY CARE COMMUNITY

b. Uncomfortable because of us

Examples: _____

3. Love with Uncomfortable Actions

- a. Becoming like them with one limitation (I Corinthians 10:1-13):
- b. Putting their needs before our own
 - i. Being uncomfortable in our focus on mission outreach
 - ii. Being uncomfortable in our diversity of worship languages

My Next Steps

- **Experience Uncomfortable Love:** Spend time with your Savior in daily Bible reading or the use of some daily devotion. A copy of the daily reading plan Pastor Pete is using is at the Welcome Center. There are variety of free devotions for individuals, families, teens, and members of the military available at WELS.net/serving-you/devotions or at TimeofGrace.org.
- **Love Uncomfortably:** Think of one person in your area of influence who makes you "uncomfortable" because of their beliefs, their actions, their politics, etc. How could you show that individual that you love them even though you may disagree with them?