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## INTENTIONAL

### LOVE EACH OTHER

January 16, 17, and 20, 2021

*We believe that God cares deeply for all people both inside and outside our faith community. We therefore seek to show our love and concern for others in tangible and significant ways.*

#### 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 84

#### Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
Praise his great love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
The pris'ner leaps, unloosed his chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.

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



M Sisters and brothers, on the final Day of Judgment Jesus will look for faith that is exemplified in his people's acts of love and compassion:

C **"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."**  
(*Matthew 25:35-36*)

M Jesus' words cut us to the heart because we know how far we fall short of our God's expectations of us when it comes to showing love and compassion. Sin and selfishness all too often rule our hearts. We deserve God's wrath and punishment, Instead, we receive mercy and grace. We, therefore, humble ourselves before God and open our hearts to him:

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.



All  Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
Worship and honor to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen.

## FIRST LESSON

## Isaiah 43:1-7

*God promises to be with his people as they experience the challenges of life in a broken world. Is God calling you to be his hand of hope and help to those who are struggling around you?*

But now, this is what the LORD says—

he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.  
<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;  
I give Egypt for your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in your stead.  
<sup>4</sup>Since you are precious and honored in my sight,  
and because I love you,  
I will give people in exchange for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup>Do not be afraid, for I am with you;  
I will bring your children from the east  
and gather you from the west.  
<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'  
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'  
Bring my sons from afar  
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—  
<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

**PSALM OF THE DAY**

**Psalm 23**

*Our God is loving shepherd, gently caring for his sheep and carrying them close to his heart.*

**M** The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
**C** **He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he refreshes my soul.**

**M** He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.  
**C** **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**M** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.  
**C** **You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

**M** Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
**C** **and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.**

**All** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is  
now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Who is the neighbor to whom I am called to show love and compassion?  
The individual in need whom God places in my path.*

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

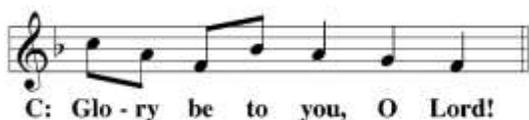
<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



## APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## HYMN 492

## Son of God, Eternal Savior

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, Honors all our human race,  
You our head, who, throned in glory, For your own will ever plead:  
Fill us with your love and pity; Heal our wrongs and help our need..

Bind us all as one together In your Church's sacred fold,  
Weak and healthy, poor and wealthy, Sad and joyful, young and old.  
Is there want or pain or sorrow? Make us all the burden share.  
Are there spirits crushed and broken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.

As you, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.  
Freely have your gifts been granted; Freely may your servants give.  
Yours the gold and yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;  
We but stewards of your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.

## SERMON

## Galatians 6:1-3, 7-10, 14

(Saturday) Pastor Nathan Strobel

(Sunday and Wednesday) Pastor David Kuehl

*Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.*

<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup>Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

<sup>14</sup>May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.
- C **You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**
- M Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:
- C **You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**
- M Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:
- C **Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

M Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C **Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

M: Lord Jesus, you sit at the right hand of your Father and rule all things for the good of the Church. Protect our nation as we transition to a new administration and give us peace. Bless President Elect Biden and Vice President Elect Harris as they begin their duties. Give them and all our elected leaders wisdom and patience as they seek to make difficult decisions for our nation.

C: May your unfailing love be upon our nation, even as we put our hope in you.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C **Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

#### CLOSING HYMN 499

#### O God of Mercy, God of Might

**O God of mercy, God of might,  
In love and mercy infinite,  
Teach us, as ever in your sight,  
To live our lives to you.**

**Teach us the lesson Jesus taught:  
To feel for those his blood has bought,  
That ev'ry deed and word and thought  
May work a work for you.**

**In sickness, sorrow, want, or care  
May we each other's burdens share;  
May we, where help is needed, there  
Give help as though to you.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

M Precious Savior, you are the Light of the world.

C **You came to heal the broken-hearted and to bind their wounds.**

M Make us instruments of mercy and grace,

C **that many more may experience the power of your healing love through us.**

M We pray, Jesus, in your name,

C **Amen.**

## BLESSING

M The Lord bless 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of January 18, 2021

<b>MON</b>	10:00 am	Walking Club (Main Church)
<b>TUE</b>	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
	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
<b>THURS</b>	10:00 am	Walking Club (Main Church)
	6:30 pm	Pickleball (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	Ministry Board Meeting
<b>SAT</b>	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
<b>SUN</b>	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Kids Club
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion

## CONNECTION CARD COMPLETION

Thank you for faithfully completing the connection card each week. Please do not complete the card in the church lobby. Please take them into the service and complete them. This will allow for a smoother traffic flow in the lobby.

## CHICKEN DINNER

Chicken dinner. Due to COVID-19 we will not be having the annual chicken dinner in February. As it is a fellowship event, the committee has decided not to try and do a "take-out only" or something similar. We look forward to a time when we can see everyone. If you have questions, please call Jim Ross at 414-425-7119.

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

## HOSPITALIZED

Brittany Michaels (Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina), Savannah Sievert (Rush Hospital, Chicago), Laura Walz (West Allis), and Dorrette Probst (home hospice care).

## FUNERAL

Lois Guhr, born February 11, 1925, went home to heaven on Saturday, January 9, 2021. Visitation is scheduled for Sunday, January 17, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, with the funeral and burial immediately following. May the God of all hope and comfort be with the loved ones of Lois.

## ATTENDANCE

The following attended last weekend's services: 95 on Saturday, 77 on Sunday 7:45 am, 117 on Sunday 9:15 am, 173 at The Bridge, 55 on Sunday 10:45 am, and 28 on Wednesday.

## 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 follows 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 him at [panitzke@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:panitzke@stpaulmuskego.org).

## FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE CLASS

Pastor Nate Strobel is leading a new session of our new member Bible study—*Following the Promise*—on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm – online only. If you miss a class, watch it later on YouTube. Enjoy camaraderie with Pastor Nate while you learn the basics of what the Bible teaches. You will track the promises of the Savior from the Garden of Eden down to your own heart and life. Someone who recently finished the class said, "I am thankful to Pastor Strobel for teaching me the doctrines of Scripture in the *Following the Promise* class. I love the friendliness of St. Paul's."

## DIVORCECARE

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](http://divorcecare.org) or contact Kristen Miller at [kmiller@stpmuskego.org](mailto: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 asked to contact Dr. Nelson at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145, or [jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org) 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 LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

## HELPING TO BUILD CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

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](mailto: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<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stpmuskego.org)) soon. We will have 5 families per time slot. You may also contact me at [sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto: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

Do you know someone who would be a great fit to join our child care center staff? We have two openings: (1) M-Th 12:30-6:00 pm and (2) M-F 12:30-6:00 pm. Both are aide positions, assisting our awesome lead teachers. Some benefits are included. Please contact Tammy Dockter at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or [dockterta@stpmuskego.org](mailto:dockterta@stpmuskego.org) 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 [dockterta@stpmuskego.org](mailto:dockterta@stpmuskego.org).

# OUR 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 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

# ARE YOU RESILIENT?

We will all fall. In Christ, we can rise in confidence to serve him again today. There are tools that can help us claim that truth.

Have you ever wondered how some people recover from crisis so well? Do you wish you could do the same?

This three-week, faith-fueled, resilience system training class will give you the resources to build your resilience. Each week, you will learn new skills to help you overcome challenges and grow in your faith. We will cover two modules each week. A summary of each module is below.

**The course will begin on Thursday, January 28,** with classes being held for three consecutive Thursdays, **6:00-8:00 pm**, in the sanctuary. Register on the Connection Card or online at [StPaulMuskego.org/experience/counseling-care-center/](http://StPaulMuskego.org/experience/counseling-care-center/).

You can learn more about *CORNERSTONE* by contacting Emily Krill at 262-510-8109 or [ejkrill@gmail.com](mailto:ejkrill@gmail.com).



## MODULE 1: RESILIENCE

Resilience is the idea that individuals can be built up in such a way that they will "bounce back" from difficulty. Those with higher resilience would recover better than those with lower resilience. There are many views of this concept, but the overall common theme include some basic elements, the particular viewpoint of the individual, and some protective factors instilled through learning. Resilience is not inherited – it is grown. No matter how resilient you may feel today, you can and will improve when pay attention and make a plan!

## MODULE 2: CRISIS SURVIVAL

Sometimes there are moments in life that cannot be corrected—they are just difficult. The best one can hope for is to get through them with grace and avoid more damage. Being able to know when to do that and how to accomplish it is crucial. Use the right tool for the right problem. If you determine you are experiencing a crisis – don't panic. Learn how to survive.

## MODULE 3: REALITY ACCEPTANCE

There are times when something enters our lives and becomes a permanent problem. Some difficulties need to be fully and totally accepted. Reality acceptance is the way to lower pain and suffering. There is freedom, release, and peace knowing that everything in your life is meant to be there.

## MODULE 4: MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness will be studied through six specific skills that help individuals delve into the world around them in the most honest and complete way. This type of mindfulness is helpful in dealing with reality and eliminating additional items that might confound the thoughts or complicate the emotions. Mindfulness is difficult but everyone can work at it!

## MODULE 5: EMOTION REGULATION

This is the skill of determining how to interact with emotions as they come. While it might seem that our emotions are controlling how we behave, emotion regulation is the way to set it up so that there is always a choice. Emotions can be very powerful things. In order to get this skill to work, we have to keep at it and reverse the emotional circle to be more in control.

## MODULE 6: THOUGHT DISTORTIONS

Thought distortions are particular ways of thinking in which people often become stuck, but which are actually untruthful. Living this way can be very difficult for them and others. Learning to catch these distortions and rephrase them can have enormous positive impact on the situations and outcomes.

# 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 [mtkolander@gmail.com](mailto:mtkolander@gmail.com) 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 [ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org).

## **LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH CENTER (NON) BOWLING ONLINE FUNDRAISER**

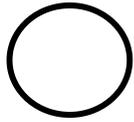
We are sad to announce that we will not be hosting our 2021 Annual 9-Pin Tap Bowling Fundraiser. However, even without the bowling event, the need for support for Lighthouse is still just as important. It is so vital that we provide our youth with the resources and opportunities to continue with their education, along with constant Christian mentoring and support.

We will have an online fundraising appeal in place of the live bowling event. As always, you can donate anytime throughout the year, but we would like to highlight the month of January as our Bowling Fundraising Month, ending on January 24, 2021, the day the live event would have been held.

In keeping with the fun that is always present at our live events, we are happy to announce that all donations received during this time will be entered into a drawing for different gift cards or certificates from our loyal business partners. Your entire donation is tax deductible.

To donate online, go to <https://www.lighthouseyouthcenter.com/donate>. Choose your amount, then enter your personal information. To designate your donation for this event, enter the word BOWLING after your last name (ex. Smith – BOWLING). Please include your email address then add your payment information. You will receive a confirmation of your donation.

If you would rather send a check, make it out to Lighthouse Youth Center and designate "Bowling" on the memo line. Mail to Lighthouse Youth Center, 2475 W. Roosevelt Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53209



## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for us in Connector 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?*

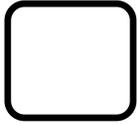
The “middle things” that we deal with are as numerous as the sands on the sea. They are reflected in our congregation’s core values. What is the right level of mission support? What is the best way to worship? What ministries best show authentic care to our members and our community? How do we best support families? What does generosity or excellence look like?



We began this study last week, reading I Corinthians 8-9. This week we read I Corinthians 10.

- 1. Read I Corinthians 10:1-4.** God’s Old Testament people had some amazing experiences as they came out of Egypt.
  - a. Talk as a group about the events that are mentioned here.
  - b. What are some of the spiritual experiences that you treasure most?
- 2. Read I Corinthians 10:5-10.** In this discussion of “middle things,” Paul warns against overconfidence. Do you recall some of the events Paul mentions? (See Exodus 32:1-6; Numbers 25:1-9; Numbers 21:4-9). What might tempt you to be overconfident in your spiritual walk?
- 3. Read I Corinthians 10:11-13.** Why do we as Christians need both the warning of verse 12 and the promise of verse 13? (Hint – look at Galatians 5:17.)
- 4. Read I Corinthians 10:14-22.** In the Lord’s Supper, we “participate” or have fellowship with or share in the body and blood of Christ. Describe how you feel after experiencing this “participation.”
- 5. Read I Corinthians 10:23-33.** The previous section explained it was wrong to participate in idol worship and sacrifice. However, if an unbeliever sacrificed an animal at a pagan altar, and then invited you to their home to eat some of the meat from that sacrifice, you were not wrong to eat. Except... if your eating led someone else to sin against their conscience. The question is always, “How will what I do affect others?”

As we think about our congregation’s core values, we will have differences of opinions on the right level of mission support, the support we give to one worship language or another, how best to show love and care to the people in our community, whether we will be part of a small group or volunteer. How can this discussion about “middle things” help us as we deal with those differences of opinion?



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

## The Intentional Life: Love Each Other (Galatians 6:1-3, 7-10, 14)

### + Let's Carry Each Other's Burdens +

Introduction: St. Paul's Core Value #3: **We value authentic care.** We believe that God cares deeply for all people both inside and outside our faith community. We, therefore, seek to show our love and concern for others in tangible and significant ways. *"I care for all people."*

#### I. The opportunities are numerous.

- A. Christians belong to t\_\_\_\_\_ families.
- B. Paul describes the Christian caught in a sin like an a\_\_\_\_\_ caught in a t\_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Paul pictures the Christian restoring someone like a d\_\_\_\_\_ resetting a b\_\_\_\_\_ bone.
- D. As you carry each other's burdens, w\_\_\_\_\_ out that you, too, are not t\_\_\_\_\_.

#### II. Our pride gets in the way.

- A. When we are aware of a fellow Christian caught in a sin, we tend to...
  - look down our noses at them, believing that we are b\_\_\_\_\_ than they are, or
  - convince ourselves that it is n\_\_\_\_\_ of our b\_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Often we choose to live according to the i\_\_\_\_\_ of our sinful nature.
- C. God warns us that he cannot be d\_\_\_\_\_, and we will *"reap destruction"* (v. 8) if we live according to the sinful nature.

#### III. Christ's love compels us.

- A. Jesus assumed our burden of s\_\_\_\_\_ and made it his own.
- B. Jesus' death on the cross is our m\_\_\_\_\_.
- C. We carry each other's burdens by giving others what they n\_\_\_\_\_ more than anything else.
- D. It is OK to b\_\_\_\_\_—not in ourselves but in Christ.

Conclusion: May God give each of us a servant's heart.

### + Next Steps +

**Memorize** Galatians 6:14 – *"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

**Pray** that the Holy Spirit would give you the strength and resolve to restore gently those whom you love who are *"caught in a sin"* (Galatians 6:1).

**Commit** to learning more about and/or plugging in to a support group or small group at St. Paul's to fulfill your godly mission to *"carry each other's burdens"* (Galatians 6:2) by *caring for all people* (Core Value #3).