

DO YOU REALLY KNOW ME?

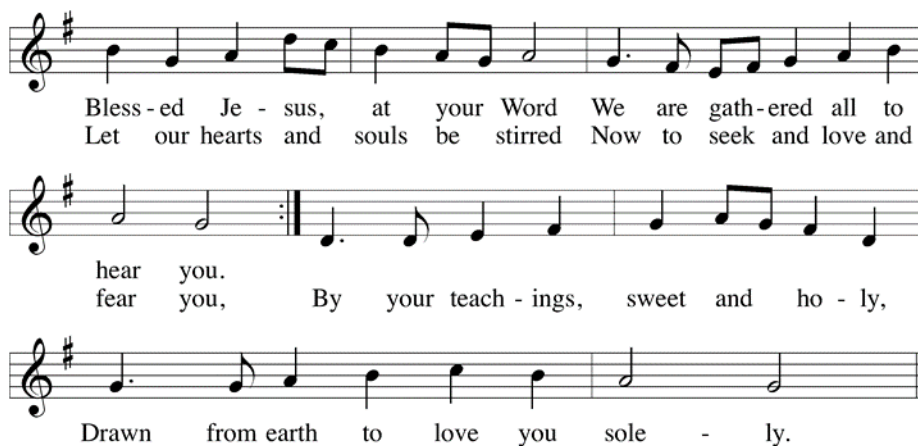
THE TEACHER

February 27 and 28, 2021

You don't know what you don't know. Jesus can open our eyes to see truths about ourselves that we'd never be able (or willing) to see. And he does this with empathy and love and in a profoundly memorable way.

BELLS AND WELCOME

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



Bless-ed Je-sus, at your Word We are gath-ered all to
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and
hear you.
fear you, By your teach-ings, sweet and ho-ly,
Drawn from earth to love you sole-ly.

M Oh, how I love your law!
C **I meditate on it all day long.**

M Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,
C **for they are ever with me.**

M I have more insight than all my teachers,
C **for I meditate on your statutes.**

M How sweet are your words to my taste,
C **sweeter than honey to my mouth!** (Psalm 119:97-99,103)

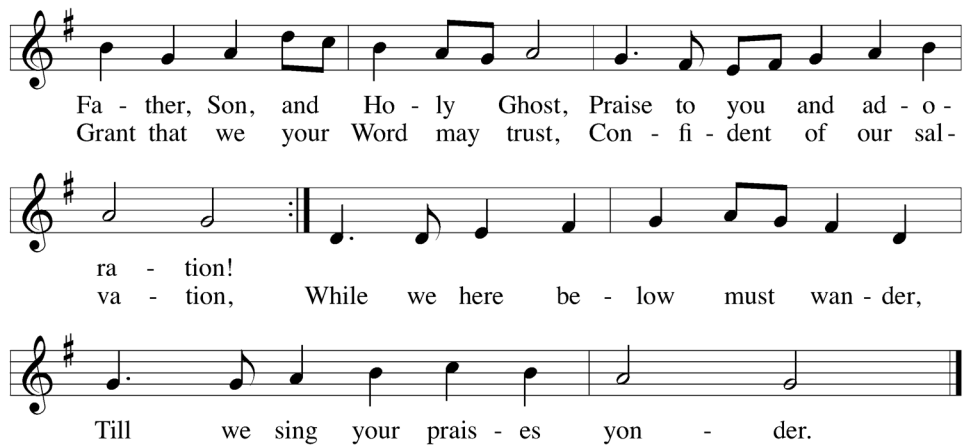
All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est dark-ness
 Till your Spir - it breaks our night With the beams of truth un-
 shroud - ed
 cloud - ed. You a - lone to God can win us;
 You must work all good with - in us.

M All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness,
 C **so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17)**

M Yet so often we have despised God’s Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.
 C **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.**

Gra-cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from God pro-
 O - pen now our heart and mind; Help us by your Spir-it's
 ceed - ing,
 plead - ing. Hear the cry your peo - ple rais - es;
 Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.

M God gave his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. 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.**



Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and ad - o -
Grant that we your Word may trust, Con - fi - dent of our sal -
ra - tion!
va - tion, While we here be - low must wan - der,
Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Heavenly Father, in your Word we find a God who threatens and punishes the unrepentant, yet offers unending mercy and compassion to every sinner through Christ.

C **In our minds, we struggle to harmonize your anger and your love.**

M Help us, once again, to see your great love for us in Christ,

C **how on the cross your anger and your love come together to rescue this lost and dying world.**

M We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

FIRST LESSON

Proverbs 1:1-7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Fools despise the Lord's instruction.

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

² for gaining wisdom and instruction;

for understanding words of insight;

³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
doing what is right and just and fair;

4 for giving prudence to those who are simple,^[a]
 knowledge and discretion to the young—
 5 let the wise listen and add to their learning,
 and let the discerning get guidance—
 6 for understanding proverbs and parables,
 the sayings and riddles of the wise.^[b]
 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
 but fools^[c] despise wisdom and instruction.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 1

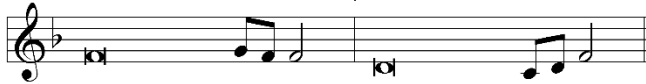
Lord, fill my heart with a longing to meditate on your Word day and night.

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*
 or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*
 and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season*
 and whose leaf does not wither.
 Whatever he does prospers.

Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,*
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,*
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

**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.**

Refrain

We cherish and proclaim the mysteries of God's love and grace, veiled for ages, but revealed clearly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived”^[a]—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—
¹⁰these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

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.

Almighty God, your Word is cast
 Like seed into the ground;
 Now let the dew of heav'n descend
 And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man
 This holy seed remove,
 But give it root in ev'ry heart
 To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
 The rising plant destroy,
 But let it yield a hundredfold
 The fruits of peace and joy.

Whene'er the precious seed is sown,
 Life-giving grace bestow
 That all whose souls the truth receive
 Its saving pow'r may know.

SERMON

Mark 4:1-20

Pastor Nate Strobel

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ²He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

⁹Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

¹⁰When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹²so that,

"they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,
 and ever hearing but never understanding;
 otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

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

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.



M Lift up your hearts.



M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, 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 10.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown

On what has now been sown
Your blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is yours alone
To make it spring and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise
And you alone shall have the praise!

To you our wants are known;
From you are all our pow'rs.
Accept what is your own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
And to your Word a blessing give.

Oh, grant that each of us
Now met before you here
May meet together thus
When you and yours appear
And follow you to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

CLOSING PRAYER

M We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of March 1, 2021

SUN	9:00 am	Open Forum (Grace Room)
	10:30 am	Open Forum (Grace Room)
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
	6:00 pm	Divorce Care (School Classroom 8)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise Bible Study (online)</i>
WED	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	3:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service with Holy Communion (after service)
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service with Holy Communion (after service)
THURS	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	Pickleball (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	Open Forum (Zoom)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	9:30 am	Family Open Gym (Trinity Gym)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Open Forum (Grace Room)
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

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.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Marvin Pellmann, born December 21, 1929, entered eternal peace with his Savior on January 6, 2021. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 2:00 pm. May our God of all peace and comfort be with Marvin's loved ones.

FUNERAL

The Lord, in his infinite wisdom, called home to heaven the soul of Dennis Miller, born March 10, 1950, on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. His funeral is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, at 2:00 pm, with a visitation starting at noon. May the God of peace comfort the Millers and their loved ones.

HOSPITALIZED

Phil Nickerson and Nancy Rindt (Linden Grove New Berlin), Paul Gionfriddo (Froedtert), Dorrette Probst and Dolores Witte (home hospice care), and Mary Watts (hospice care at New Perspective).

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last weekend's services: 123 on Saturday, 68 on Sunday 7:45 am, 144 on Sunday 9:15 am, 151 at The Bridge, 80 on Sunday 10:45 am, and 135 at 3:30 pm and 61 at 7:00 pm for the Wednesday Lenten services.

DO YOU REALLY KNOW ME?

"Who do you say I am?" (Mark 8:30) Jesus asked his disciples that critical question just six months before his crucifixion. Over the six weeks of the Lenten season, we will study the Gospel of Mark to answer that critical question anew. On the weekends, we will work our way through Mark 1-11. During our Wednesday meditations, we will focus on Jesus' suffering in the last chapters of Mark. The 3:30 service will include a Children's Message as part of our on-going effort to welcome families back into regular in-person worship.

Wednesday, March 3	Courageous	Mark 14:43-65
Wednesday, March 10	Irreproachable	Mark 14:66-15:15
Wednesday, March 17	Self-Sacrificing	Mark 15:16-32
Wednesday, March 24	Steadfast	Mark 15:33-47
Weekends		
March 7	God in Flesh	Mark 5-6
March 14	The Compassionate	Mark 7-8
March 21	The Lover of Sinners	Mark 9-10
March 28	The Coming King	Mark 11

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE BIBLE CLASS

Pastor Nate Strobel is currently leading 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.

CABIN FEVER? GET OUT AND PLAY AS A FAMILY!

The Saturdays of March 6 and 20 have been reserved 9:30-11:30 am for the Trinity Gym to be open for use for families with grade school children to come out and play together. If your little ones have cabin fever, bring them and have fun together. This is also a community outreach opportunity to invite your neighbors with kids to join you. Bring your own balls, jump ropes, or gym-friendly games. This event is intended for parents to play with their children. No supervision will be provided. However, a St. Paul's host will be on site. Please contact Sally Wallner at (414) 422-0320, ext. 294 or swallner@stpaulmuskego.org with questions.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

WISH LIST

Often individuals ask about special giving ideas for our ministry. Below is the current "Wish List." If you would like to give toward these items, clearly mark your offering, "Wish List," with a note, for example, "Centennial Gym Scoreboard."

Item	Est. Cost	Received	Still Needed
iPads for K-I	\$6,000	\$5,875	\$125
Centennial Gym Scoreboard	\$5,000	\$20	\$4,980
Trinity and Centennial Gym Cameras	\$5,500	\$0	\$5,500
Trinity Gym Resurfacing Special Graphics	\$6,000	\$6,000	Fully funded

Trinity and Centennial Gym Cameras

One of the silver-linings of the pandemic is the start of livestreaming our home sporting events. This is something we would like to continue even after pandemic capacity limits are lifted. Sample videos have been viewed and the video quality is very good. The contract is with the same company that installed the school security cameras as part of the safety grant a few years ago. This upgrade would allow us to "click-and-live-stream" very easily, compared to the set up process that is needed now. These cameras could be used for other gym events as well, not just school sports.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY SPRING RALLY CANCELLED

Due to COVID 19 concerns, the Milwaukee Metro South Circuit of the LWMS has cancelled its Spring Rally that was scheduled to take place Saturday, April 24, at Woodlawn Lutheran Church in West Allis. For more information, contact St. Paul's LWMS Reporter Nadine Steger at gstegeer1@gmail.com.

STONEY CREEK ADULT COMMUNITY IS HIRING

Stoney Creek Adult Community Is looking to hire an energetic, ambitious person with strong management skills to serve as a part-time activity director. For more information email Cindy at cindy@stoneycreekmusekgo.com.

GET THE ST. PAUL'S APP!

Download our new app, **St. Paul's Muskego**. You can find it on Google Play or on the Apple App Store. You'll be able to watch Pastor Pete's video messages, read his blog, watch livestream services, easily give your offering, and so much more! It's a great way to simplify your life and access what you need from your church. If you need help using the app, contact Tammy Miller at 414-422-0320, ext. 111, or tmiller@stpaulmuskego.org.

THANK YOU NOTE FROM DECEMBER FRIENDS IN NEED FAMILY

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of my family I would like to extend our sincere gratitude and thanks for your overwhelming generosity. Your donations have been vitally helpful in this time of hardship. The good Lord sees fit to allow us all the opportunity to overcome adversity and we as a church body routinely come together to support one another. Your thoughts, prayers, donations, and spiritual encouragement have sustained us, Bless you all. It is my genuine hope the Lord continues to bless and keep you all in his loving embrace. Thank you for all you have done.

Yours in Christ,
Name Withheld

EXCELERATE!

Covid-19 accelerated shifts that were already happening in God's church.

- online worship and less frequent worship
- virtual learning
- isolation with the emotional strain it brings to individuals and families

During most of 2020, the church was tapping on the brakes, reacting to the changes like a driver uncertain what was around the next bend in the road.

As we look ahead into the second half of 2021 and beyond, it is our prayer that we can **Excelerate** into the changes that are necessary in the post-pandemic world to fulfill our mission: *By every possible means we bring every person within our area of influence closer to Christ.* Pick up a copy of the *Winter Messenger* from the Welcome Center and join one of the open forums to discuss these challenges and opportunities.

Open Forums

To discuss issues facing St. Paul's as we prepare for ministry beyond COVID-19

In Person

Sun Feb. 28 at 9:00 am & 10:30 am
in the Grace Room
Sat. Mar 6 at 6 pm in Grace Room

Zoom Forum

Thurs. Mar 4 at 7 pm
Register on Connection Card

EXCELERATE WISH LIST--\$220,000

There are three improvement items on our **Excelerate Wish List**:



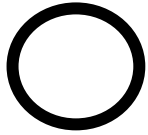
- Replace the lighting fixtures in the main part of the sanctuary. The system to control the lighting failed several years ago. A new system will not be compatible with the current fixtures.
- Move a wall between the school's library and Spanish classroom to provide a larger classroom.
- Build a maintenance garage. This building will also provide workspace for our school children to learn basic woodworking and possibly small engine repair.

The cost of these three projects is about \$200,000. We will model the tithe by also committing \$20,000 to the Equipping Christians for Ministry Fund to help Martin Luther College build its first new dormitory in 50 years. The total *Excelerate* Wish List is \$220,000. We have already received \$100,000 of that amount! If you would like to help make these three projects a reality, mark your gift *Excelerate*.



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

The Thirteen 22 Society's name comes from Proverbs 13:22, "A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children." To help individuals and families prepare estate plans, we have contracted with SFC Estate Coaching for 30 coaching slots. Our coach Tom Slye will help you take the steps to be prepared to take your estate plan to attorney. We can even suggest attorneys that we have worked if you don't have an attorney already. If you have questions about the process, speak to Pastor Pete (414-422-0320, ext. 122). You can schedule a time to meet with Estate Coach Tom Slye at no cost to you at StPaulMuskego.org/Estate-Planning/.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

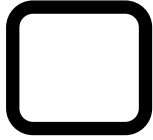
1. Go "around the horn" sharing **the highs and the lows** in your personal walk with Jesus. Have your "prayer warrior" for the evening/day take notes for prayer now or at the end of your time together.

2. **Reread Mark 4:1-20** to refresh your minds and hearts with the message from the Word we heard on February 27 or 28. Share your quick, initial thoughts on Jesus' parable and on his message for "appropriate listening" to his words.

4. **Ponder the four types of soil in the parable**--the four approaches to hearing the Word of God.
 - Share, as you are comfortable, different times in your life when you were struggling spiritually with "hearing" God's Word so that your faith was unproductive and the blessings of God seemed "distant".
 - How can we "cultivate" quality time in the Word (good seed-to-soil contact) so that more often than not we are "good soil"? Refer to Colossians 3:15-17 and Psalm 1:1-3.3.

5. **Read all of Isaiah 55**, zeroing in on verses 10-13. This chapter speaks of the New Testament Church, the "gathering of the nations". What beautiful promise and encouragement are ours, personally and as a church, as we do the work of gospel preaching and living?

6. **Close with prayer** that wraps together the group's highs and lows. Pray for the healthy hearing of the Word of God in our personal lives, in our congregation, and among Christians gathered together around the world.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

THE TEACHER: TAKE CARE IN HOW YOU LISTEN

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

Mark 4:1-20

TRUTH #1 – A good teacher seeks to touch the hearts and minds of every learner.

- Jesus seeks to reveal T_____ about ourselves...
- ... with E_____ and L_____...
- ... speaking to our hearts of F_____

TRUTH #2 – Jesus used parables as teaching tools and memory hooks.

- They are puzzles...pictures...riddles--earthly “K_____” guiding to spiritual T_____
- Memory hooks for the J_____
- The lessons come in the P_____

TRUTH #3 – Old-time farming is a “key” to this parable.

- The sowing of the S_____ was a skill with “issues”
- Sowing seed was a M_____ H_____ for every person

TRUTH #4 – Typically, a parable has one, main point for the learner to “catch and carry.”

- This parable is all about L_____ appropriately to the Word of God.

TRUTH #5 – Remember the “Good Teacher? Always seeking to touch the heart and mind of every hearer?”

- Where in the F_____ are we sitting, standing, living today?
 - The H_____ Ground?
 - The S_____?
 - The T_____?
 - The G_____ S_____?

CONCLUSION Where is the comfort in this parable?

Next Steps

- **Read** all of **Isaiah 55**, focusing in on verses 10-13. This chapter speaks of the New Testament Church—the “gathering of the nations”. What beautiful promise and encouragement are ours in verses 10-13 for the gospel sharing that we do personally and as a congregation?
- **Ponder** the four types of soil--the four approaches to hearing the Word of God. How can we “cultivate” quality time in the Word (good seed-to-soil contact) so that more often than not we are “good soil”? Cf. Colossians 3:15-17 and Psalm 1:1-3.