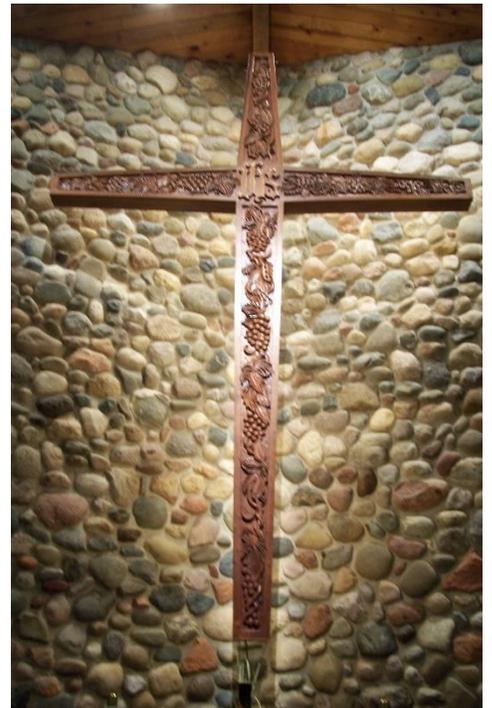


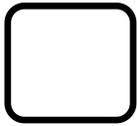
GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

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

1. If you were confirmed, what do you remember most about that day?
2. Read John 15:1-8 together, and if possible, as a group watch a video about grape pruning. Google "Spur Pruning at Best's Great Western." What in the video helped you better understanding Jesus' comment about the Father pruning us?
3. What are some different ways the Father "prunes" a person?
4. What is the ultimate purpose of pruning? (John 15:2)
5. Pruning takes place in the winter when there seems to be no life in the vine. If you feel comfortable, share a wintertime in your life when the Father pruned you with the end result that your faith-life was more fruitful.
6. The cross in our church was carved by the late Wayne Boldt, a life-long member of St. Paul's. He mentioned that the bottom bunch of grapes (just three grapes) was a picture of Judas Iscariot, just before he lost his faith all together. What lessons do you think Wayne wanted us to learn from his carving?
7. If you were talking with a confirmand, what habits would you encourage them to develop to remain in Jesus?
8. Read Galatians 5:22-23. Who in your life produced such abundant fruit that you continue to benefit spiritually from your association with them?





NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

I Know You: Pruned to Perfection John 15:1-8

1. A pruning primer

- a. The time to prune – w _____
- b. The place to prune – t _____ bud spurs
- c. The amount to prune – a h _____ space
- d. Dead branches
- e. New branches

2. The perfect pruner

- a. He c _____ for the vine and branches
- b. He k _____ the potential
- c. He p _____ to make us more fruitful

3. The pruned produces

- a. Because of life from the v _____
- b. Because of the power of p _____
- c. Through a changed l _____

My Next Steps

- **Know the Pruner:** When we are pruned, we can begin to question the Father's love. Read 1 John 4:7-16 to be assured of his love for you.
- **The Pruner knows you:** Read Psalm 139. Notice that the Father knows everything about you.
- **The pruned pray:** Pray for our young people being confirmed this week that they might remain in Jesus and that he might produce fruit in them.