

JOIN US IN PRAYER AT VISION REVEAL

AN EXCITING FACILITIES VISION

In answer to many prayers, God has given your congregational leadership an exciting vision for the future of St. Paul's/The Bridge!

For the last 18 months your elected and called leaders have been praying about the future of St. Paul's/The Bridge. We have been privileged to work with architect Paul Barribeau, who designed the Trinity Gym/Café addition. Paul hosted an open forum focused on facility needs in February 2022 to hear the needs and desires of the congregation. Paul then met with many ministry leaders. Facility and Site Planning Team members, Dave Fritsch, Kim Christopherson, Jay Oswald, Alexandra Campen, Bob Zastrow, and Pastor Panitzke, met many times with Mr. Barribeau to develop an exciting vision that will help us fulfill our mission to bring as many people as possible closer to Christ. This vision will bless every person connected with St. Paul's ministry – the traditional worshipper, the Bridge worshipper, in Muskego and Milwaukee, families with children in our local public schools and in our Lutheran Elementary school, and community members.

Our October/November message series will enable us all to see this vision and pray about our personal participation in the vision.

VISION REVEAL – AN EVENING OF PRAISE AND PRAYER – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, AT 6:30 PM



Dream a dream so big that unless God intervenes it will fail. This sign in the men's restroom on the Muskego campus sums up the purpose of the Vision Reveal on Friday, September 22. God has placed on our hearts a generous vision to bless our future mission and ministry. God must intervene powerfully in each of us if this effort is to succeed.

The entire St. Paul's family is invited to join us in praise and prayer on Friday, September 22. We will share some of what will be presented in the October/November message series and then join in prayer for God's blessings.

The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a half-hour of hors d'oeuvres from Matty's Catering, soft drinks, and adult beverages. At 7:00 pm there will be a short time of worship, then a presentation about the vision, and culminating with a "fly through" of the plans. We will close with prayer and then more time for fellowship.

Seating is limited! Register today using the QR code. If that is not possible, note your interest on the Connection Card.



WELS CHORAL FEST – NOVEMBER 3-5

WELS CHORAL FEST HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Wisconsin Lutheran College will be hosting the National WELS Choral Fest, November 3 – 5, 2023. This festival brings over 600 students to the Milwaukee area to praise the Lord in song. There are 55 choir students coming from Winnebago Lutheran High School that need a host family to provide them with sleeping accommodations, breakfast, and transportation to WLC that weekend. If you can assure that our young sisters and brothers in Christ will be welcomed that weekend, please contact Pam Meyer at 262-364-9443 or pammeyer10@yahoo.com.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED

Marie Andrews (University of Chicago Medical Center), Jamie Edlebeck (Ascension Holy Family, Des Plaines, Illinois), and Sherwin Beyer (The Woods).

BAPTISM

Evelyn Heidi Martin, daughter of Justin and Jessica (nee Klein) Martin, was born May 28, 2023, and was baptized in a private ceremony on Saturday, September 16, 2023.

Oliver James Suchorski, son of James and Alexandra (nee Swan) Suchorski, was born April 21, 2023, and will be baptized in a private ceremony on Sunday, September 17, 2023.

May God bless Evelyn and Oliver in their baptismal faith.

ATTENDANCE

The following attended last week's services: 42 on Thursday, 132 on Saturday, 150 on Sunday 8:00 am, 268 on Sunday 9:30 am, 226 at The Bridge, and 73 at The Bridge MKE.



THE BRIDGE SPIRIT WEAR – LIMITED TIME!

Display your pride in The Bridge at St. Paul's within our community by purchasing and wearing our logo on assorted quality pieces. Place your orders by September 24 by scanning the QR code. Delivery will be made around October 20, just in time for The Bridge MKE Trunk or Treat. For questions, please contact Sally Wallner at swallner@stpaulmuskego.org or 414-218-5197.

OPENING AT THE CHILD CARE CENTER

The St. Paul's Child Care Center has an opening for a newborn. Please contact Tammy Dockter at dockterta@stpaulmuskego.org.

NOW HIRING NURSERY STAFF

This position is for Sunday mornings. If interested, contact Jennifer Simons at jensimons35@gmail.com.

GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY – THE POWER OF PRAYER

How's your prayer life? Do you get what you pray for? Would you like to? Come learn how in a new Grace Room Bible Study, through October 15, at 9:30 am in the Grace Room. Pastor Chris Cordes, VP of Publishing at Northwestern Publishing House, will help you discover in the Bible what few understand about prayer. Study **The Power of Prayer** so your prayer life can move from mediocre to meaningful, from dubious to dynamic.

POINT OF GRACE LIVE PODCAST EVENT

Point of Grace will be presenting a live podcast event on Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, at WLC Warrior Underground (8800 W Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee, WI). "Let The Bird Fly" is a podcast about living freely in a world given back to us. This event features a live Q&A, food, and vespers at 9:45 pm.

PARENT WORKSHOP: BALANCING PRIORITIES IN THE HOME

As a parent, what you prioritize lays the groundwork for who your children will become. At St. Paul's, we want you to experience the joy and peace that comes from learning to parent your kids in a way that maximizes the odds they'll be respectful, responsible adults who know and love Jesus. Join us for a session with parenting coach, Kimberly Joy, a successful mother of 12, on Sunday, October 1, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, in the Grace Room. Childcare and lunch will be provided. Scan the QR code to register.



LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH CENTER BENEFIT DINNER

You're invited to the 17th Annual Lighthouse Youth Center Benefit Dinner on Friday, October 6, at the Wisconsin Club (6200 W Good Hope Rd – Milwaukee). If you have any questions or want to donate a gift or auction item, contact Rebecca Tomlin at rebecca.tomlin@lighthouseyouthcenter.com or 414-731-7674.

HE GETS US

INVITE A FRIEND!

Have you seen the commercials on TV or billboards at sporting events? “He Gets Us” is a national ad campaign designed to help Christians talk to their family, friends, and co-workers about Jesus. He gets us! He understands!

HE GETS US MESSAGE SERIES

- **Anxiety: God knows.** September 17 and 24
Anxiety loves the question, “What if?” We listen and often believe that knowing the answer is the only way to get relief. If we knew the answer to, “What if?” then we would feel better! But if that is the case, how could Jesus feel anxiety? Jesus is God, and as God knows everything—even the answer to the question, “What if?” So, knowing isn’t the solution to anxiety, but the fact that God knows is the key.
- **Family Conflict: “Each has to be right.”** October 1 and 8
When conflicts happen in our families, it so tempting to insist, “I am right.” And the more I am right, the more you must be wrong. Before you know it, the relationship is gone. Is this something that Jesus understands? Is it something Jesus can heal? Yes, he gets us. He knows the pain of family conflict. He loved his own family and friends through it. He will love us through it, too.

Community Conversation: Have you seen the “He Gets Us” commercials on TV or social media? Do you have questions or opinions? Dave Panitzke will host community conversations to discuss these thought-provoking ads. You can see the ads at HeGetsUs.com. Use the QR code to register for a Community Conversation on Wednesday, September 27 at 6:30 pm on our Muskego campus, or Saturday, September 30 at 2:00 pm at our Bridge MKE campus. You can also register by noting on the Connection Card which conversation you will be attending.



JOIN A SMALL GROUP

Small Groups – Launch Night on Sunday coming soon!

God has blessed us with six new small group leaders. Below is their planned schedule (all times are evenings). If you know any of these individuals, please encourage them and, if you aren’t already in a small group, ask to join their group. You may also note your interest to join a small group on the Connection Card and we will connect you with a group.

Leaders	Day	Time	Frequency	Location
Paul + Meg Schuessler	Wednesday	6:30 – 8:00	Weekly	West Allis
Paul + Judi Jass	Sunday	7:00 – 8:30	1 st + 3 rd Sunday of the month	Far west side of Franklin near Muskego Lakes Middle School
Ken + Julie Becker	Thursday	6:30 – 8:00	Weekly	New Berlin, Coffee Rd
Aaron Miller	Monday	6:30 – 8:00	Weekly	Menomonee Falls
Will + Jackie Nauertz	Sunday	6:30 – 8:00	2 nd + 4 th Sunday	Muskego, next to St. Paul’s
Savannah + Tyler Polzin	Wednesday	6:30 – 8:00	Weekly	Mukwonago

There are also existing small groups that may have room for more. Here are leaders or members of 11 small groups that you can ask: Andy Timm, Pete Panitzke, David Kuehl, Nate Strobel, Nate Zastrow, Mike Westendorf, Sally Wallner, Gary/Bari Rieth, Aaron/Jenny Biebert, Bob/Sharon Garbe, Gary/Kim Christopherson.

1905 CHURCH BUILDING NEWS

DEED REPORT

At the open forum on July 29, 2023, a member expressed concern about a possible deed restriction on the two acres purchased in 1858 for the original St. Paul's church building and cemetery. Three days later, the Ministerial Team obtained a copy of the original deed from the Waukesha County Register of Deeds and made copies of the deed available at the August 9 Voters' Meeting. The Ministry Board contracted with a legal firm to provide an opinion about the deed restriction. On September 11, 2023, the Ministry Board received their report which concludes: "We believe you can move forward with your plans to deconstruct the building without any changes to the deed or the parcel."

NEXT STEPS

When this fall's capital campaign is complete, the Facilities and Site Planning Team will begin meeting again with our architect Paul Barribeau of Groth Design to complete facility plans early in 2024. That work will include seeking input from the congregation on ways to honor the faithful service of our spiritual ancestors here at St. Paul's. We have already heard many suggestions regarding using elements from the 1905 building in current and future facilities. Also mentioned frequently is the idea of a devotional area in the cemetery using elements of the 1905 building. We look forward to discussing these and other possibilities within our St. Paul's family and with the creative people at Groth Design.

TIMELINE

No timeline has been established for the deconstruction of the 1905 church building. Before deconstruction starts, there will be opportunities for the St. Paul's family and our community to tour the building. After it has been determined what building elements we want to use as a congregation, we will determine a fair way to offer artifacts from the building as mementos, first to our members and then to the community.

PRAY FOR HEALING

The congregation at its annual meeting in May 2022 voted to deconstruct the 1905 church building. In June 2023 six voters asked the congregation to reconsider. In Christian love the congregation did that, using multiple worship folder articles, a special *Messenger*, and six open forums to inform our membership about the issues. At the special voters' meeting on August 9, the congregation affirmed its original decision.

Satan is always seeking to divide God's Church. In Paul's day, Satan wanted to maximize the division between Christians of Jewish background and Christians of Gentile background. Today, Satan wants to maximize the division between Christians who want to preserve the 1905 church building and Christians who do not believe it is a good use of resources. Let us remember what unites us. We are all Christians, devoted to Christ and his mission. It is by focusing on the cross of Christ that the "dividing wall of hostility" is torn down.

As Christians we may disagree on a decision but remain united in Christ. We as Christians are the temple of God that shall endure forever. Let us prayerfully claim the unity in Christ of which Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:

"For [Jesus] himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit" (Ephesians 2:14-22).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of September 18, 2023

MON	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	6:00 pm	DivorceCare (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Main Church)
TUE	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	6:00 pm	Adult Handbell Practice (Main Church)
	6:30 pm	Alzheimer's Support Group (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Following the Promise Bible Class (Grace Room)
WED	9:45 am	Reading Buddies (Trinity Café)
THUR	6:45 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:30 am	Thursday Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	10:00 am	Small Group Communion (Main Church)
	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	5:45 pm	TempleLoveFitness Bible Study (Grace Room)
	6:30 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
FRI	6:15 pm	Vision Reveal (Trinity Gym)
SAT	8:00 am	God's Guys Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	9:45 am	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal (Main Church)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	8:00 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:30 am	Kids Club
	10:00 am	The Bridge and The Bridge MKE Communion
	10:30 am	The Bridge and The Bridge MKE

CONNECTED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

- **Closer to Christ:** Didn't get a chance to go to church last weekend? Want to revisit the message from a past sermon series? New episodes are available for your Monday morning commute.
- **Great Questions Great Conversations:** This podcast consists of conversations with St. Paul's/The Bridge ministry staff that walk you through various topics on Christianity and life. New episodes available every other Wednesday.



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.