



S66 W14325 JANESVILLE RD • MUSKEGO WI 53150 • WELS • 414.422.0320 • WWW.STPAULMUSKEGO.ORG

EASTER FESTIVAL WORSHIP

April 4 and 5, 2026



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S – CONNECTION CARD

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please complete a Connection Card, sharing any questions or prayer requests you might have. You can fill out the card online and find other resources by scanning the QR Code.

NEW GUESTS *If this is your first time worshipping with us, please stop the Welcome Center in the Commons to receive a free gift!*

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE EASTER SUNDAY FROM 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM. *The nursery is to your left as you enter the Commons in the Kids Wing. The Family Room and the Nursing Mother's Room are to your right as you leave the center doors of the sanctuary.*

SUNDAY KIDS CLUB 9:00 – 10:00 am at the school for 3 years old through 5th grade. Kids Club will not meet Easter weekend. Register online at stpaulmuskego.org/kidsclub.

RESTROOMS are to the left as you leave the sanctuary. There are also handicapped/family restrooms to the right as you leave the sanctuary.

ACCESSIBILITY A hearing loop system and large-print worship folders are available.

QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE? Visit the Welcome Center in the Commons where a greeter will be happy to assist.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC MEDITATION (Sunday)

Christ Arose!

*By R. Lowry, Arr. C. Dobrinski
St. Paul's Adult Handbell Choir*

BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

St. Paul's Easter Ensemble

Congregation

**I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head!**

Congregation and Choir

**He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save.
He live all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.**

Women

**He lives to bless me with his love;
He lives to plead for me above.
He lives, my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.**

Men

**He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with his eye.
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.**

Choir

He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears.
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives, all blessings to impart.

Congregation

**He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end.
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.**

M Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

M Jesus Christ was delivered over to death for our sins

C **and was raised to life for our justification.**

M Since we have been justified through faith,

C **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M Death has been swallowed up in victory.

C **Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in him will live, even though they die.

C **And whoever lives and believes in him will never die.**

M I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.

C **I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.**

M This is the day the Lord has made.

C **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

M Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Choir

He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death.
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

Congregation and Choir

**He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"**

FIRST READING

John 20:1-18, Bible page 1087

*The Apostle John records his first glimpse into the empty tomb
and Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene*

PSALM OF THE DAY

Irish Alleluia, Psalm 118B

Choir sings Refrain for the first time alone. Congregation to join after.

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Choir

The Lord is my strength and / my defense;
he has become my sal- / vation.
The Lord's right hand is / lifted high;
the Lord's right hand has done / mighty things!
I will not / die but live,
and will proclaim what the / Lord has done.

Refrain (*Congregation and Choir*)

Choir

I will give you thanks, for you / answered me;
you have become my sal- / vation.
The stone the builders re- / jected
has become the / cornerstone;
the Lord has / done this,
and it is marvelous / in our eyes.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain (*Congregation and Choir*)

SECOND READING

Matthew 28:1-10, Bible page 999

The angel announces he good news to the women:

"He is not here. He has risen, just as he said."

ANTHEM (*Saturday*)

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed

Words and Music by K. and K. Getty and E. Cash, Arr. T. Fettke and T. Grassi

St. Paul's Easter Ensemble

ANTHEM (*Sunday*)

He Is Not Here!

By J. Nagy and R. Nagy

St. Paul's Adult Choir

THIRD READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Bible page 1154

The Apostle Paul lists a multitude of witnesses to the reality of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

HYMN OF THE DAY – BLUE HYMNAL 510

In Christ Alone

1 In Christ alone my hope is found;
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all;
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2 In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe;
this gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for ev'ry sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3 There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his and he is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

SERMON

1 Corinthians 15:12-23, Bible page 1154

Pastor Pete Panitzke

RESPONSE HYMN – BLUE HYMNAL 465, vv. 1, 4

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"
saints on earth and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
sing, O heav'ns, and earth, reply.

Lives again our glorious King!
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
where your victory, O grave?

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Lord of life, by your rising from the dead, the Father declared to the world that he accepted your payment for our sins. Through the good news of your resurrection, renew our hope and revive our faith. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

M Lord of life, as you have risen from death, fulfill your promise to raise us from the death of sin to a new life of service to you. Pour out your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we might love you with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as ourselves. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

M Lord of life, in this fallen world, death and sorrow surround us. You conquered death, not only for yourself but for all of us who believe in you. In our grief, open the eyes of faith to see that we too shall rise victorious from the grave. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

M Lord of life, you now sit at the right hand of the Father, ruling all things for the good of the Church. We trust you will provide your Church with the workers she needs: pastors, teachers, staff ministers, faithful volunteers, courageous prayer warriors. We thank you for leading Jared Witkowiak to continue to serve among us and for leading Betsy Carlovsky and Katie Green to accept our calls to teach in our school. Guide Pastor Bonack as he deliberates his call to serve full time with Christian Family Solutions. Give him wisdom to know where his gifts might best be used to your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

M Lord of life, you rule the nations as you know best. Work in the hearts of the leaders of nations that we might enjoy peace and safety. At your time and in your way, we trust you will bring peace. We pray for the men and women serving in our armed forces. Give them courage for their tasks and protection from danger. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

M Lord of life, we place into your care all who are sick or suffering.

Special prayers and intercessions.

M Remind them that your victory over death is a fact, and comfort them with your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

M Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

M Risen Savior, feed our faith with the message of your resurrection. Come to us in your Word and strengthen us until we feast with you in eternal glory.

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 – BLUE HYMNAL 451

See, What a Morning

See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"
See God's salvation plan,
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, "Where is he laid?"
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb.
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound till he appears,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
thro' the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
to the King crowned with pow'r and authority!
And we are raised with him;
death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.
And we shall reign with him,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

BLESSING

M 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.

C Amen.

M Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!

CONTINUE YOUR CELEBRATION OF EASTER WITH US!

Our celebration of Easter continues with a study of I Peter

Living Hope: Resurrection Life in a Hostile World

- I Peter 1:1-9 – *Born Again into a Living Hope* – weekend of April 12
- I Peter 1:17-21 – *Ransomed with Precious Blood* – weekend of April 19
- I Peter 2:19-25 – *Following the Risen Shepherd* – weekend of April 26
- I Peter 2:4-10 – *Living Stone Built on the Risen Cornerstone* – weekend of May 3
- I Peter 3:13-22 – *Saved through Water* – weekend of May 10

Our worship schedule is:

- Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Grace Chapel
- Saturday at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary
- Sunday at 9:00 and 10:30 am in the Sanctuary
- Sunday at 10:30 am – Contemporary service at The Bridge
- Sunday at 10:30 am – Contemporary service at The Bridge MKE, 3203 S. 76th Street
- Kids Club for 3K-5th grade from 9:00 to 10:00 am in the school building

PASTOR JEFFREY BONACK HAS BEEN CALLED BY CHRISTIAN FAMILY SOLUTIONS

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack has received a call to be the Director of Faith Integration for Christian Family Solutions. In this position, Pastor Bonack would provide doctrinal and theological leadership across Christian Family Solutions and develop faith integration concepts, curriculum, and training rooted in a Confessional Lutheran worldview. He would continue to serve as a psychotherapist here at the St. Paul's Muskego counseling site for about 10 hours per week.

Now Pastor Bonack must consider where he can best serve God's kingdom, in this new role at Christian Family Solutions or continue his ministry among us. If he remains here at St. Paul's, the Ministerial Team and Ministry Board are discussing with him the possibility of reducing his counseling role so that he could provide more pastoral care here at St. Paul's.

Please keep Pastor Bonack and his family in your prayers and share with him your insights about his two calls.

ST. PAUL'S MINISTERIAL STAFF *Office 414-422-0320*

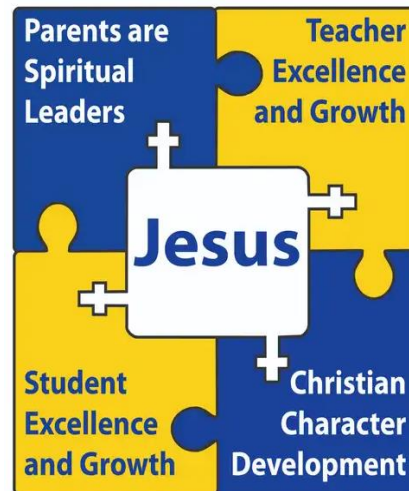
Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org	Worship and Counseling
Mr. Randy Fink	Ext. 120	rfink@stpaulmuskego.org	Business Administrator
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons	Ext. 118	sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org	Principal
Pastor Frank Italiano	Ext. 126	fitaliano@stpmuskego.org	Discipleship
Mrs. Katie Klement	Ext. 144	kklement@stpmuskego.org	Youth Minister
Mr. Zach Klement	Ext. 129	zklement@stpmuskego.org	Campus Planter
Pastor Pete Panitzke	Ext. 122	ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org	Ministerial Team Leader
Mrs. Heidi Schuh	Ext. 115	hschuh@stpmuskego.org	Asst. Director of Worship Operations
Pastor Nate Strobel	Ext. 293	nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org	Resident Missionary
Mrs. Sally Wallner	Ext. 294	swallner@stpaulmuskego.org	Community Outreach Coordinator
Mr. Mike Westendorf	Ext. 124	mwestendorf@stpmuskego.org	Director of Worship Operations

ST. PAUL'S YOUTH MINISTRIES

HELPING PARENTS BUILD STRONG CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

St. Paul's offers the following ministries to help parents fulfill their role as the primary spiritual leaders or pastors of their families.

- **Scheduling baptisms:** If you are interested in baptism for your child(ren), indicate your interest on the Connection Card. One of the pastors will schedule a time to meet with you about the blessings of baptism and schedule the baptism in one of our services or in a private ceremony.
- **St. Paul's Child Care Center** providing year-round care for children six weeks to three years old. Contact Director Trista Heffner at 414-422-0320, ext. 200, or theffner@stpmuskego.org.
- **St. Paul's PreK Program** provides a structured Christian education for our 3K and 4K children. With half day and full day options, parents have the flexibility in choosing an enrollment plan that works best for them. To schedule a tour contact Principal Seth Fitzsimmons at sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org.
- **St. Paul's Lutheran Elementary School** exists to help families in our congregation and community by educating and preparing our students for a lifetime of service to Christ and for sharing our Savior with all people through a high quality, Christ-centered education. Contact Principal Fitzsimmons at sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org to schedule a tour.
- **St. Paul's Summer Care and Before/After School Care:** Children and parents need not be a part of the St. Paul's family to benefit from this program. Contact the school office at 414-422-0320 for information.
- **Sunday Kids Club** for children 3K – 5th grade from 9:00 to 10:00 am every Sunday in our school building. Walk-ins welcome any Sunday, but we are better prepared if you pre-register at StPaulMuskego.org/Kids-Club/.
- **Confirmation Instruction for Children in Public Schools:** Preparation for youth confirmation is a 3-year program that usually begins in Grade 6. If you have a student in middle school or heading into middle school, contact Youth Minister Katie Klement at kklement@stpmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 144, for more information.
- **High School Ministry:** The next event for our teen ministry is the WELS Youth Night at Victory of the Lamb in Franklin on Sunday, April 19. Our Youth Ministry Katie Klement is also organizing a group of teens to travel to the WELS International Youth Rally at Bowling Green University. For more information about either of these events, text Katie at 469-318-9464.
- **Wisconsin Lutheran High School:** St. Paul's supports this area Lutheran High School. Forty of our students are in attendance this year.
- **Home School Group:** Jessica Vanderhyde has recently gathered 12 to 15 home schooling families who meet on Wednesday mornings for Bible lessons and mutual support. If you would like to learn more, contact Jessica at jessinchina10@gmail.com.



CALL NEWS

- Mrs. Katie Green has accepted our call to serve as one of our Kindergarten teachers.
- Mrs. Betsy Carlovsky has accepted our call to serve as our 6th grade homeroom and 6th-8th grade English language arts teacher.
- Mr. Jared Witkowiak, our 7th grade homeroom teacher, has declined his call to teach 6th-8th grade at St. John's Lutheran in Wrightstown, Wisconsin and continue his ministry among us.

ST. PAUL'S MINISTRIES FOR ADULTS

At St. Paul's we believe it is important for Christians of all ages to connect to one another to encourage and support each other. We offer the following ministries where faith and friendships can grow.

BIBLE STUDIES

- **Following the Promise Membership Bible Class**

Pastor Nate Strobel is beginning a new session of *Following the Promise* on Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 – 8:15 pm. Track the promises of the Savior from the Garden of Eden to your own heart and life. You may attend in person or online. For information, mark the back of your Connection Card or contact Pastor Nate at 414-426-8236 or nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org.

- **Sunday Grace Chapel Bible Study – 8:00 and 9:00 am**

We know "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." But did you know Martin Luther wrote about 40 other hymns? Songs can stick with us for years and music can be a powerful tool to teach God's Word. Jason Oakland, professor at Wisconsin Lutheran College, will teach this class starting next Sunday in the Grace Chapel.

SMALL GROUPS/BIBLE STUDIES

These are smaller Bible Study Groups that meet on campus every week. New participants are always welcome. Request more information on your Connection Card.

- Full Armor of God Bible Study – Tuesdays at 8:30 am in the Faith Room
- Rooted to Rise Women's Bible Study – Thursdays at 8:15 am in the Commons
- God's Gals Bible Study – Thursdays at 9:30 am in the Garage
- God's Guys Breakfast Bible Study – Saturdays at 8:00 am in the Grace Chapel

IN-HOME SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

There are more than a dozen small group Bible studies that meet in peoples' homes. If you would like to participate in a small group, indicate your interest on the Connection Card.

AWAKE AND ALIVE – 18 TO 25-YEAR-OLDS

Awake and Alive is a online study for young adults that is held twice a month on Sunday evenings. Contact Staff Minister Mike Westendorf at mwestendorf@stpmuskego.org for more information.

SENIOR MINISTRIES

- **Organization of WELS Seniors (OWLS)**

The OWLS, men and women over 55, meet on the second Wednesday of the month for lunch and a presentation. Indicate your interest on the Connection Card.

- **Ladies Afternoon Fellowship (LAF)**

This group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at noon for a bag lunch, devotion, presentation, and fellowship. Indicate your interest on the Connection Card.

- **Walking Club** meets Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 9:30 am to walk in the Commons and enjoy time together. All are welcome.

SPORTS: MEN'S SOFTBALL

St. Paul's will have a team in the WELS Softball league playing Tuesday evenings at Juneau Playing Field in Milwaukee (6500 W Mt. Vernon Ave). Any confirmed male member of St. Paul's is eligible to play, and if there is enough committed interest, we may be able to field two teams. Please contact Mike Westendorf at 414-507-8250 or mwestendorf@stpmuskego.org, or Nathanael Kelly at ehlar.cometseeker@gmail.com.

SPORTS: PICKLEBALL

Everyone ages 16 and older are invited to play Pickleball at our open gyms for free on the following Thursdays: April 9, 23, and 30, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, in the Trinity Gym. For questions, contact Cindy Proeber at 414-801-2845.




WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of April 6, 2026




MON	9:30 am	No School This Week – Easter Break Walking Group (Commons)
TUE	8:30 am 9:30 am 4:30 pm	Full Armor of God Bible Study (Faith Room) Walking Group (Commons) Public School Catechism
WED	12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (Grace Chapel) Cancer Support Group (Hope Room)
THUR	8:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm	Rooted to Rise Bible Study (Commons) God’s Gals Bible Study (Garage) Walking Group (Commons) Small Group Communion (Sanctuary) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm	God’s Guys Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	8:00 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Grace Chapel Bible Study Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Kids Club Grace Chapel Bible Study The Bridge MKE Communion Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion The Bridge with Holy Communion The Bridge MKE

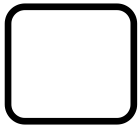
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

St. Paul’s

-  • St. Paul’s Muskego
-  • St. Paul’s Lutheran Church – Muskego
-  • @stpaulsmuskego

The Bridge

-  • The Bridge at St. Paul’s Muskego
-  • The Bridge at St. Paul’s
-  • @thebridgemuskego



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

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

WHAT IF... IT IS TRUE? JESUS HAS RISEN AS HE SAID I CORINTHIANS 15:12-23

1. Living with the “what if” uncertainty

- a. Life is filled with “what if’s”...
 - What if... I make a life changing mistake
 - What if... I get sick or hurt
 - What if... I lose my job
- b. Christians can deal with another level of “what if’s”...
 - What if... I can’t be forgiven
 - What if... there is no life after death
 - What if... I am believing a lie

2. Following the path from uncertainty to certainty

- a. Prophecy and fulfillment
“According to the Scriptures” (I Corinthians 15:3,4)
- b. Witnesses
Women, Peter and the 12, 500, James and the Apostles, Paul
- c. Written witnesses
“I have carefully investigated everything from the beginning” (Luke 1:3).
- d. Reliability of the witnesses
“Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death” (Revelation 2:13)
- e. Reliability of the text
Number of manuscripts, Age of manuscripts, 99% unquestioned

3. Living with the “what if” certainty

- a. What if shame is s _____ – Romans 4:25-5:2
- b. What if my gift is a _____ – I Corinthians 15:58
- c. What if death is d _____ – I Corinthians 15:20
- d. What if hope never d _____ – I Peter 1-5

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Next step: Read I Peter in preparation for our Living Hope message series starting next week. You will find free Bibles to your left as you enter the Commons from the Sanctuary. Join us in worship next weekend.