

**FOLLOWERS
OF CHRIST
OBEY HIS WORD
WITH CLEAN
HEARTS**

THE NEED FOR



FOLLOWERSHIP



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
HOWARDS GROVE, WI



IN THE NAME OF JESUS

THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:

The Need for Followership: obey the Word with clean hearts. A loving father gives his children a list of rules and regulations. The son follows the rules to get his allowance. The daughter follows the rules to demonstrate how much she loves her father. The children's actions might look almost identical...but their hearts are very different! Following Christ is not simply a matter of outward observance of laws. It is a matter of the heart. The Law was given so we could see God's heart and demonstrate how his heart has affected our own. The followership Christ seeks flows from hearts that have been radically transformed by God's law and gospel. Christ wants his followers to be less like the son described above, and more like the daughter. This week we see that followers of Christ obey his law from the heart.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship on this morning. At St. Paul's, you will find a worship service designed to praise God and increase people's faith. While all styles of worship take some getting used to, we hope you will find that the main message – the unconditional love Jesus has for us – comes through clearly.

PARTICIPATE. Many parts of our worship service are interactive. Feel free to sing along with the hymns and songs. There are also times in the service when Pastor and congregation speak back and forth. Please join together as you feel comfortable.

PARAMENTS. In Lutheran churches you often see paraments...that is, the colored cloths with symbols on them. These change with the church seasons and celebrations as a visual reminder of what we are celebrating in our worship. Green is the color of life and nourishment...the basic color of nature. After reliving the great events of the life of Christ...the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers.

PERSONAL CONVENIENCES. For your convenience, restrooms are located down the hall to the right of the entrance into the sanctuary...feel free to ask for directions. Cell phones should be turned off or put on vibrate mode so as not to disrupt others during the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

To help you focus while you join us for worship, take the time to eliminate as many distractions around you as possible. While we share the promises of God's Word with you, we encourage you to create community. Use the comment and chat areas to let others know you are worshipping with them. We may be separated by in-person or livestream worship, but we can connect with each other here for Christian support and encouragement.

WORSHIP NOTES

THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

The Sundays after Pentecost comprise the longest season of the Church Year. After spending a half-year looking at Christ's life *for* us...we now spend a half-year looking at Christ's life *in* us. By the power of the Spirit working through the Word and Sacraments...Christ produces spiritual growth within us. That growth is symbolized by the green colors that drape the church for much of this season.



OUR WORSHIP SERIES

“We need better leadership!” Have you ever said that? You were frustrated because no matter how many resources an organization has, it will flounder if leaders do not lead well: providing direction...training...motivation...coordination...encouragement...and even grace. Leadership is extremely important. And so...there are times we lament, “We need better leadership!”

Jesus Christ is the leader of our congregation, our home, our lives. And his leadership is perfect in every way. Therefore, when things are amiss in any of those arenas...what is needed is not better leadership, but better followership. In this series, we ask Christ to empower us with his Spirit so that we might better follow his lead. May we better reflect the beauty of his life...better make his priorities our own...and better serve our God and neighbor.

THE NEED FOR FOLLOWERSHIP – FOLLOWERS OF JESUS...

15 th Sunday after Pentecost	Sept. 1 st	... <i>Obey the Word with Clean Hearts</i>
16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Sept. 8 th	... <i>Are Amazed by His Power to Save</i>
17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Sept. 15 th	... <i>Are Armed Against the Devil</i>
18 th Sunday after Pentecost	Sept. 22 nd	... <i>Are Humble Servants</i>
19 th Sunday after Pentecost (<i>St. Michael & All Angels</i>)	Sept. 29 th	... <i>Have Powerful Allies</i>
20 th Sunday after Pentecost	Oct. 6 th	... <i>Know How to Love Their Families</i>
21 st Sunday after Pentecost	Oct. 13 th	... <i>Treasure Him Most</i>
22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	Oct. 20 th	... <i>See Jesus by Faith</i>

May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

CW 697

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Because we are all sons and daughters of the Lord,
we are called by him to repent of our sins.

Let us go before our God and ask for his forgiveness.

(Acts 17:29-30)

(Worship Leader)

Lord, we confess our num'rous faults,

How great our guilt has been,

How vain and foolish all our thoughts,

How deeply stained with sin.

The Apostle John declares, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Together, we confess our sins.

(1 John 1:9)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Cleanse me and I will be clean. Wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,

and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

(Psalm 51)

Silence for meditation and private confession

All:

It's not by works of righteousness

Which our own hands have done,

But we are saved by God's free grace

Abounding through his Son.

Having confessed your sins, hear the good news of our salvation,
“the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
Dear children, your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.
God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” *(1 John 1:7, 2:12, 5:11)*

All:

**It's from the mercy of our God
That all our hopes begin;
It's by the water and the blood
Our souls are washed from sin.**

**Raised from the dead we live anew;
And, justified by grace,
We shall appear in glory, too,
And see our Father's face.**

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everlasting God,
give us an increase of faith, hope, and love;
and that we may obtain what you promise,
make us love what you command;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.**

Be seated

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

From the giving of the law...God was clear. His law is a gift. It is intended to give life, to be a blessing to us (verses 1,5,9), and others (verses 6-8). Time spent learning and studying God's law is important. It keeps our focus on the heart of the matter...which is the heart of God. All too often we imitate the Pharisees and see God's law without seeing God's heart. Don't be like the Pharisees. See God's heart. The law is part of our lives so we can see that "the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him" (verse 7).

¹Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

⁶Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." ⁷What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

⁹Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lord, I Love Your Commands

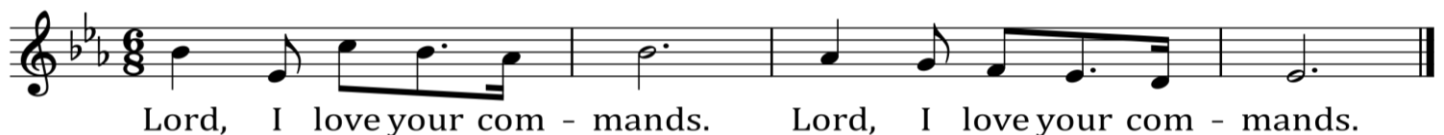
Psalm 119

The Church sings this psalm in services which encourage us to take the Word of God seriously. Based on the Hebrew alphabet...it is the longest psalm and the longest chapter of the Bible.

The soloist will sing the verses. Join in the refrain as directed.

Soloist: Lord, I love your commands. Lord, I love your commands.

Refrain



Lord, I love your com - mands. Lord, I love your com - mands.

I have said, "O LORD, my portion is to obey your words." The law from your mouth means more to me than large quantities of silver and gold.

Refrain

Let your merciful love console me by your promise to your servant. Show me compassion, that I may live, for your law is my delight.

Refrain

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold, why I rule my life by your precepts and hate false ways.

Refrain

Your decrees are wonderful indeed; therefore my soul obeys them. The unfolding of your word gives light, and understanding to the simple.

Refrain

Second Reading

Romans 9:30-10:4

Here is a sad truth: many Jews who heard the gospel refused to believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah. At the same time...Gentiles heard about Jesus and believed in him. Why did that happen? Was it because of some fault of God? In his Word? In his plan to save mankind? No...it was because they missed the heart of God's law. They chose to seek their own righteousness before God in their own works. They were sincere and zealous...the problem was that their zeal was misguided. The Gentiles...who were not pursuing righteousness before God...obtained righteousness. This righteousness was the righteousness that God gives to all who believe in Jesus as their Savior. Christ has fulfilled the law for all people. He is the end of the law for everyone who believes. So they followed the law from their hearts.

³⁰What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. ³²Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³As it is written:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall,
and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

¹Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ²For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

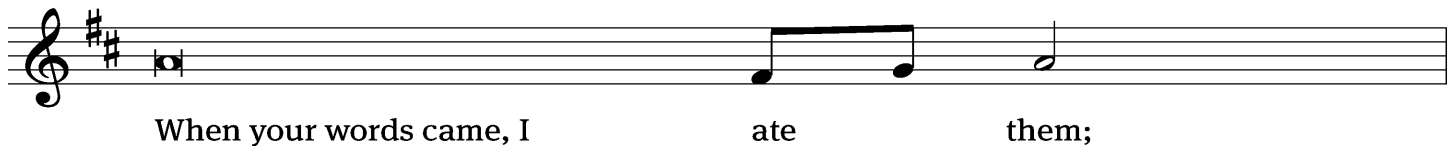
Gospel Acclamation

Jeremiah 15:16

Refrain



Tone



Gospel

Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

The Pharisees called Jesus to account for his disciples not keeping the "tradition of the elders" (verse 3). The law was not there to make life difficult but to be a benefit for God's people. The crux of the matter was not outward activity but the heart. Jesus reminds them of the reason for the commands of God...to get at the heart. God loves us so much he wants our hearts. Jesus demonstrates it by keeping his heart and actions pure...living that perfection in our place. Then he sets us free from the law of sin and death by paying our price on the cross and coming out of the grave.

¹The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ²and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?"

⁶He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

"These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.'

⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

¹⁴Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

²¹For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²²adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Oh God, My Faithful God

CW 740

Sermon

Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Easy to Form, Hard to Break

Stand

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.

Offering

If you're visiting today...we're glad to have you as our guest. Please don't feel any obligation to participate in this part of the service. In fact...we hope you'll consider this service our gift to you! This offering is an opportunity for those of us who are regular attenders to invest tangibly in what God is doing here. If you do wish to give an offering...please feel free to do so.

Giving Options:

- ♦ *Scan the QR code to the right.*
- ♦ *give your gift [online](#).*
- ♦ *via text message: text "GIVE" to 877.492.5452 and follow the text instructions.*



Prayer of the Church

The Prayer of the Church is one of the three responses to the Word that worshippers have heard in the readings and sermon. We respond with faith (speaking the Creed), with offerings, and with prayer. In the Prayer of the Church, God's people do the work of priests, making intercession for themselves...for others...and for the world.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Special intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Blessing

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 T give you peace.

Amen.

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

CW 705

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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER: Pastor Brian Pechman

SERVICE ACCOMPANIST: Luke Bramstedt

ALTAR GUILD: Sandra Weber, Karen Beining, Debbie Van Alstine.

USHERS: 8:00a.m.- Greg Johnson, David Wehrmann, Richard Steolb, Will Belitz.

10:30a.m. – Kevin Reinemann, Tim Reinemann, Jim Truttschel, Tyler Truttschel.

OFFERINGS: 8/25 & 8/26 - \$14,765 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,600). \$40 – MLHS SWEET CORN FEST. \$750 – GROWING FORWARD.

ATTENDANCE: 8/25 & 8/26 – 8:00 A.M. – 158. 10:30 A.M. – 168. 6:00 P.M. – 40.


In our prayers this week...

- ♦ Norbert “Pete” Prange celebrating 98 years of life this weekend by God’s grace.

This Week at a Glance:	
Date	Service, Bible Study, and Meeting Times
Sunday, September 1	8:00a & 10:30a Worship Services
	9:20a-10:10a Family Bible Hour
Monday, September 2	No School (Labor Day) Office Closed
	6:00p Monday Night Worship
Tuesday, September 3	6:30p Sunday School Teachers Meeting
Wednesday, September 4	6:30p Council
Sunday, September 8	8:00a & 10:30a Worship Services
	9:30a-10:15a Family Bible Hour
Monday, September 9	6:00p Monday Night Worship

Grow with Christ

Bible Studies, Worship, and more!

- 1. Bible Class Today:** We finish our summer Bible study mode today. We invite adults, teens, and children down to 3rd grade to join us for study. This weekend, we will look at Article XII of the Formula of Concord, "Other Factions and Sects." This article deals with various groups and movements that arose during the Reformation period, which held beliefs and practices contrary to the teachings of the Lutheran Church. The Formula of Concord aimed to clarify and reject these erroneous teachings to maintain the purity of Lutheran doctrine. Come and learn more in the Harvest Room between services this morning.
- 2. Child Care:** During Bible study, parents attending Bible class are welcome to let their children (2nd grade and younger) play in the Garden Gym, which will be supervised by volunteers.
- 3. Sunday School Registration:** Sunday School for the fall kicks off next Sunday! It will be held each Sunday from 9:30-10:15a. The theme for this year is "The Lord is our Salvation!" We are now enrolling students from 8th grade down to potty trained 3-year-olds. To help us prepare materials and teaching staff, please use the QR code here or click on the link on our website to register. If you would like to invite a neighbor or friend, feel free to grab a couple fliers from the member room.
- 4. New Bible Classes Kicking Off:** Mark your calendar for these upcoming classes.
 - Next Sunday, we will begin a new Sunday morning Bible Class unit on Angels & Demons. Who are these powerful spirits? Should we be afraid of them or thankful for them? What does the almighty Lord use them for? Come and find out more at this class!
 - On September 11th, we will resume our Wednesday morning Bible class from 9:00-10:00a. Since we looked at 1 Thessalonians in the spring, we will continue with 2 Thessalonians this fall. Come and learn more about perseverance in trials, standing firm on God's Word when false teachings surround us, prayer, active Christianity, and more!

5. **Seeking Jesus Women's Retreat Oct. 19th.** We're excited to see the interest in Seeking Jesus, St. Paul's full day Women's Retreat. We recently opened registration to our sister congregations, so be sure to register as soon as possible.

Please consider inviting the women in your lives who could also benefit from a day dedicated to strengthening and nurturing their faith in our savior. The retreat is from 8:30 - 4:00 and includes an opening devotion, two keynote speakers, breakout sessions, beautiful music, food and fellowship.



To register, please use the QR code below. Paper registration forms are also available in the church narthex. Completed registration forms can be left in the member room in the box marked Seeking Jesus. Registration closes on Sept. 15th.

Seeking Jesus postcards are available on the kiosk in the narthex. Please feel free to share them with friends and family.

Announcements & News

1. **Join Our Adult Choir:** Are you looking for a way to share your love for music and worship? Come and be a part of our church choir! We meet for practices on Monday nights at 7:00p, starting September 9th. Whether you're a seasoned singer or just love to make a joyful noise, our choir is a welcoming place for everyone from high school age and up. Our first semester of music runs through the Christmas season. It's a wonderful opportunity to grow as a musician, have fun, and raise your voice in praise to our incredible God! Contact Luther Curia with any questions: Luther.Curia@sphg.org
2. **St. Paul's Movie Night:** The Activities Committee invites you to enjoy "Despicable Me 4" on Friday, September 20th, starting at 6:00p. We'll have the gym set up for the occasion, with a huge movie screen. We've got dinner covered! Besides pizza, we will have a "Build Your Own Movie Snackbox Bar". For the adults, we will have Old Fashioneds as well as soda and water bottles. Register at the link (<https://forms.gle/HHaq1bb63ydGqbeR7>) or using the QR code by September 16. Hope you can join us!



3. **Double Kwik Trip Scrip:** During the month of September, take advantage of a 10%, usually 5%, discount on your Kwik Trip gift cards! Scrip can be purchased in between services or stop in the office to purchase. Exact cash or check are the accepted forms of payment.
4. **St. Paul's Volleyball:** Our St. Paul's volleyball team has their first game this Friday, September 6th at home! Games will be played at 4:30p & 6:30p. Come on out and cheer on our student athletes! (Also, if you are willing and interested in helping out in the concession stand, please talk to Mr. Dais.)
5. **St. Paul's Pioneers:** Pioneers is starting up in October! This first session we will focus on archery. We are looking for some help in teaching our kids more about archery. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mike Heilman at 920.698.1654.

Brian Pechman

Pastor

pastorpechman@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
530-917-0682

Adam Bode

Pastor

pastorbode@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-224-2961

Luther Curia

Staff Minister

luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-287-8575

Michael Wieting

Principal

michael.wieting@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
715-439-9193

Erin Radue

Office Administrator

secretary@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-901-6167

Eric Eickhoff

President

president@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-838-4064

Doug Mattek

Vice President

vice.president@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-377-0657

Dave Wehrmann

Head Elder

headelder@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-207-7793

Craig Schuenemann

Sunday School Superintendent

craig.schuenemann@yahoo.com
920-254-7791



St. Paul's Church & School

441 Millersville Ave
Howards Grove, WI 53083
Office number: 920-565-3780
www.stpaulshowardsgrove.org