15th Sunday of Pentecost September 1, 2024



FOLLOWERSHIP

Do we need better leadership or do we need better followership? *A worship series*

St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

"St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School"

www.stphilipsmilwaukee.com

Pastor: Raymond Kimbrough Principal: Jason Schapekahm

Welcome, Friend! You Have Come To The Right Place! Jesus Loves YOU!

WELCOME

Guests and visitors, we invite you to worship with us again in the future. For more information regarding St. Philip's Lutheran Church, please contact Pastor Kimbrough at 414-263-1373 or 414-254-6093. For information on our K4 – 8th grade Christian day school please contact our Principal, Jason Schapekahm at 414-263-7614 or 414-659-4688.

<u>Worship Theme</u> THE NEED FOR FOLLOWERSHIP FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST OBEY HIS LAW FROM THE HEART

A loving father gives his son and daughter a list of rules and regulations. Chores, curfews, civilities, dress code—the father makes his will clearly known. The son strives to follow the rules for two reasons. 1) He wants to get his allowance. 2) He is afraid that if he breaks the rules, his father will punish him. The daughter strives to follow the rules, also for two reasons. 1) She believes her father established those rules not to control her but for her safety and blessing. 2) She wants to demonstrate how much she loves and trusts her father. Those two children's actions might look almost identical. Their hearts are very different!

Likewise, 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.

921 Come, Thou Almighty King



Stand

<u>Pastor</u>: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you. (spoken)

Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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. (spoken)

Oh Taste and See (sung)

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; It stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

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

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.**

Psalm of the Day - 119E Teach Me, O LORD

Reader: Your statutes are wonderful; Congregation: therefore I obey them. Reader: The unfolding of your words gives light; Congregation: it gives understanding to the simple. Reader: Turn to me and have mercy on me, Congregation: as you always do to those who love your name. Reader: Direct my footsteps according to your word; Congregation: let no sin rule over me. Reader: Redeem me from human oppression, Congregation: that I may obey your precepts. Reader: Make your face shine on your servant Congregation: and teach me your decrees.

Reader & Congregation:

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.

Second Reading

Romans 9:30-10:4

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

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

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."

Jeremiah 15:16

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated

740 O God, My Faithful God

CW 740

Please rise for the final stanza.



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr.

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text – Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sermon Theme - "Are You Spiritually Clean or Unclean?"

- 1. Uncleanness does not come from unwashed hands or certain foods. (Tradition) vss. 1-5
- 2. Uncleanness comes from evil thoughts and actions. (Hypocrisy) vss. 6-8
- 3. Cleanness comes alone from Jesus. Vss. 14,15,21-23

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.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace. **Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. 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 + give you peace. **Amen.** 705 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version[®], NIV[®]. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.TM Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version[®], NIV[®]. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.TM Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.



St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

www.stphilipsmilwaukee.com 3012 N. Holton St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 414 263-7614 splsoffice@stphilipsmilwaukee.com Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod www.wels.net

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister Lay Reader Organ Pastor Raymond Kimbrough Mr. Thomas McNeal Mrs. Nicole Cottman

In Our Prayers

Joyce Vernon Natasha McCants Kitty Henderson Melvin Reed

Next Week: September 8, 2024 Liturgy & Lay Reader: Mr. Jack Vogel Musicians: Praise Band leads worship

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

<u>Monday, September 2</u>	NO School – Labor Day Break
Sunday, September 8	Bible Class resumes 9:30AM
	"Biblical Hospitality"
	Worship with communion 10:30AM
	Praise Band leads worship

Biblical Hospitality Bible Study

In May 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory on the "Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation." He talked about the increasingly prevalent feelings of isolation, invisibility, and insignificance and offered small steps to strengthen our relationships and rebuild social connection. But since this is a secular document, there are two key pieces missing: our relationship with God and how that affects our relationships with those around us. In this study, we'll look at how practicing biblical hospitality creates a bridge to the "isolated, invisible, and insignificant." In contrast to the modern concept of hosting, biblical hospitality sees the needs of others and responds from the rich pool of blessings received from Jesus. We tend to be relational and often have God-given gifts that make us aware of and sensitive to the feelings of those around us. To nurture, encourage, and equip that tendency, this study will expand our understanding of biblical hospitality, demonstrate what it looks like and provide practical application for our life.

September 2024 Calendar and Text Sheet is included with today's bulletin.

Faculty and Staff of St. Philip's Lutheran Church & School

Pastor Raymond Kimbrough Principal Jason Schapekahm Ms. Olivia Krueger, Teacher Mrs. Claire Vogel, Teacher Ms. Lisa Chamberlain, Teacher Mrs. Grace Sauer, Teacher Mrs. Hayley Moldenhauer, Teacher and Title I Mrs. Barb Allard, Office Manager Ms. Diana Mora, Educational Assistant Ms. Julia Wilson, Educational Assistant Mrs. Mikaela Evans, Educational Assistant Mrs. Sylvia Bone, Educational Assistant Mr. Cody Bone, Educational Assistant Mr. Lonnie Jefferson, Janitorial

St. Philip's Lutheran School, Board of Education Members

Chairman, Pastor Raymond Kimbrough			
Gwen Banks	Thomas Foster	Deshawn Jordan Kaegler	
Kelli Kimbrough	Thomas McNeal	Carey Wilson	

ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL STILL HAS OPENINGS

Our next open enrollment period begins on September 1^{st} and runs through September 16^{th} . We have plenty of seats available in K4 – 4^{th} grade, with limited openings in grades 5-8. Please help spread the word to family or friends who may be looking to enroll their children in school.

Word of Mouth Promoting

School and church families are St. Philip's best promoters. If you know of someone looking for Christian education for their child, please have them contact Mr. Schapekahm at 414-659-4688 or Mrs. Allard at 414-263-7614 for more information about St. Philip's Lutheran School.

If you refer a new family and they enroll and stay at St. Philip's for the first quarter of our next school year, you will receive a thank-you of \$100. Ask about our new family referral program.



Where Success Means More

Grade School Football Tailgate — Join the families of the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Conference for a fun night at WLHS Zeitler Stadium (330 N Glenview Ave., Milwaukee,) on Friday, September 13, starting at 5:00 p.m. As part of our PK-12 partnership, families are invited for field fun, face painting, and raffles, with food served around 6:00 p.m. Your attendance includes free admittance to the Viking varsity football game against Grafton High School at 7:00 p.m. Visit <u>wlhs.org/tailgate</u> to RSVP for this FREE event by Wednesday, September 11.

WLHS Drama & Musical Rummage Sale Items Needed — Wisconsin Lutheran High School is looking for donations of clothing, shoes, and costumes for a rummage sale to support the drama and musical departments. If interested in donating, please contact Mrs. Patti Wenzel at <u>patti.wenzel@wlhs.org</u> or 715-360-0407 to arrange drop off or a pick up by Sunday, September 22.



You're invited to the **18th Annual Lighthouse Youth Center Benefit Dinner on Friday, October 4th** at the Wisconsin Club (6200 W. Good Hope Rd - Milwaukee)! All proceeds raised will help to provide after school homework assistance and daily devotions for the inner city youth of Milwaukee and Appleton. Please visit <u>https://lyc.ejoinme.org/dinner2024</u> to register. Space is limited and fills quickly! Deadline to register is Friday, September 20th. If you have any questions or if you would like to donate a gift or auction item, contact Abby Rasmussen at <u>abby.rasmussen@lighthouseyouthcenter.com</u>.



FOLLOWERSHIP

SERIES EXPLANATION

"We need better leadership!" Have you ever said that? Perhaps you were frustrated with the direction being taken by some elected official or by management at your workplace or by the coach of your favorite team. You were frustrated because you know that 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. Our worship follows this path.

15th Sunday after Pentecost 16th Sunday after Pentecost 17th Sunday after Pentecost 18th Sunday after Pentecost 19th Sunday after Pentecost 20th Sunday after Pentecost 21st Sunday after Pentecost 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Followers of Christ Obey His Law from the Heart Followers of Christ See the True Purpose of His Power Followers of Christ Are Armed for Battle Followers of Christ Are Humble Servants Followers of Christ Have Powerful Allies Followers of Christ Know How to Love Their Families Followers of Christ Maintain Proper Priorities Followers of Christ Make Selfless Sacrifice

Clean in Christ

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

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them." He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

You know what's gross? When people don't wash their hands! Eww! Sometimes you might use chalk or paint or glitter and your fingers start to turn different colors. Other times hands get really dirty, like when you're playing outside and you get mud everywhere, even under your fingernails. Could you imagine someone coming to dinner with hands like this—dirty, slimy, muddy hands—and then digging into a big bowl of watermelon without washing their hands? Eww!

It's not just mud or paint that makes your hands dirty. Sometimes you can't see what makes your hands dirty because they're filled with germs. Imagine someone sneezing right into their hand and then wanting to shake your hand. Gross! Or how about a sick student coughing all over their hands and then touching everything at school—the desks, the books, the doors. Yuck! Bleh! Gross!

Some of the Jews in Jesus' time were very serious about washing hands and other things. They weren't really concerned about germs though. They did these things because they thought it made them more holy. They thought God would love them more because they did these special washings.

One day, when they asked Jesus why his disciples didn't do this kind of special hand washing, Jesus told them how wrong they were. Jesus told them it is not dirt and mud that defiles a person (that means to make them dirty or unclean). Instead, it is what comes from the inside that makes a person unclean. It's sin in us that makes us dirty in God's sight. Our anger, our greed, our hatred, our mean words, our pride, and so much more—all of these make us so dirty that no water or soap could ever clean us.

Thankfully, Jesus could—and did! Jesus washed us clean himself. But he didn't use soap or hand sanitizer. Jesus washed us clean with his own blood that he shed on the cross. He washed away every stain of sin and made us clean and pure in God's sight. Even better, one day we will be with Jesus in heaven where we will be clean and holy forever! What a joy that will be!

Closing Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for washing us clean in your own blood. Help me now to live a life that is pure and God-pleasing in your sight. Amen.

St. Philip's Lutheran Church & School Pastor Raymond Kimbrough 3012 N Holton Street Milwaukee, WI 53212

Church: 414-263-1373

Cell Phone: 414-254-6093

TO FRIENDS AND VISITORS

This is the house of God. In His Name we welcome each and every person. May His Word bring you closer to your Savior, assuring you of the forgiveness of all your sins through Jesus' death and resurrection.

If you are without a church home or have recently moved to the area, our pastor will be happy to call on you or answer your questions about church membership. If you are burdened with sorrow or trouble, we invite you to call on the pastor at any time.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

St. Philip's congregation supports and maintains a Christian Day School for the thorough training of the whole child. We want each child to know, not only how to deal with this life, but to know their Savior and prepare for eternal life. The school is called St. Philip's Lutheran School and is located at 3012 N. Holton Street.

> School Office Phone: 414-263-7614 Church Office Phone: 414-263-1373

> > Church Service – 10:30AM Bible Class – 9:30AM