



July 24, 2022

Welcome, guests! God's love welcomes you—no matter who you are or where you come from— and so do we. We believe that Jesus Christ is the true Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death, and triumphant resurrection he saves all sinners even without our help. Jesus Christ makes us special people, right with God and ready for life! We learn this from the Bible, God's authentic message of grace and guidance for us. Whether you are a first time guest or a curious observer with little religious background, we are delighted to share our worship with you. Please come back and worship with us again.

Children's "My Worship Notes" are included in another document. They can be used by children of any age to keep notes during the service.

If you would like to know more about Lamb of God, visit our website www.lambofgodlafayette.com

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Lamb of God is a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod WELS
(www.wels.net) est.1850

KEY CONCEPT: STEWARDSHIP OF HOSPITALITY

The God-lived life is a life of showing God's love. Last quarter, we focused on letting that shine in serving others, doing things for them. In today's worship, the emphasis shifts a bit, and we look at the God-lived life as one that isn't only doing things for others but opening our lives to them. As we invite people into our lives and our homes, God gives us opportunities to show what we are all about and share who we are all about. Through hospitality, as messy and dangerous as it can be, relationships are built, and Jesus is shared.

This quarter, we focus especially on relationships in our lives that show and share Jesus.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord God, in coming to hear your Word this morning, you have planted us like trees beside streams of water. Grant that we may ever delight in your Word and yield abundant fruit in our lives, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

INVOCATION

[We invoke, that is, call up on the name of the Triune God, to be present with us through Word and Sacrament. The sign of the cross is made to remind believers of their baptism in the name of the Triune God.]

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

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with gifts to serve you and our neighbor. We repent for times we have used those gifts selfishly instead of generously and selflessly. Forgive us and let your peace rule our lives.

**♪ May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in everything
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing. (CW467:3)**

Dear Savior Jesus, you have shown us the full extent of your love by giving your life for ours on the cross. Though that love is what ought to motivate our service, too often our service is grudgingly given, motivated by guilt and obligation, instead of generously given, motivated by your love. Forgive us and let your love fill our lives.

**♪ May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,
Him exalting self abasing – This is victory. (CW467:4)**

O Holy Spirit, you want all people to be saved by the power of the Gospel. You also tell us that you use our Christian lives and service to lead them to hearing the Gospel. We are sorry when people see sin in our lives and not the good deeds you desire from us. Forgive us and live within us.

**♪ May his Spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him. (CW467:6)**

ABSOLUTION

["The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners" Martin Luther's Small Catechism, see also John 20:21-23]

As a called servant of the Triune God, I announce to you his grace and forgiveness. On behalf of and by the command of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**♪ May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,
By his love and pow'r inspiring All I do or say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow'r. (CW467:1-2)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[The Prayer of the Day compliments the theme of the day.]

Almighty God, you sent your Son to become one of us to cleanse us and claim us.

Give to us the same spirit of hospitality Jesus had to look on each stranger as someone you love, and therefore worthy of our time and concern; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

♪ **May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go. (CW467:5)**

THE WORD

[Like Mary, we sit at the feet of Jesus to hear his Word (Luke 10:39).]

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

[It has been a tradition in the Christian church to stand for the reading of the gospel for the past 2,000 years. Just as subjects rise when a king speaks, we rise out of respect for the words of our King.]

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

[The Gospel Acclamation is a familiar scripture that compliments the theme of the day and prepares our hearts to hear the Gospel reading.]

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Alleluia! (Hebrews 13:2)

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When

the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.¹³ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN’S SERMON

The children are invited to come sit in the front with Pastor Horn.

**The Hymn of the Day is chosen because of its strong connection to the Gospel reading.*

HYMN

Oh, How Good It Is
CWH 731

1 Oh, how good it is when the fam’ly of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
are the fruits of his presence here among us. **Refrain**

Refrain: So with one voice we’ll sing to the Lord,
and with one heart we’ll live out his word,
till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for he dwells in the presence of his people.

2 Oh, how good it is on this journey we share
to rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace
when we offer the blessing of belonging. **Refrain**

3 Oh, how good it is to embrace his command
to prefer one another, forgive as he forgives.
When we live as one we all share in the love
of the Son with the Father and the Spirit. **Refrain**

SERMON

based on Matthew 9:9-13

Eating with Sinners

CONFESSION OF FAITH

[The word creed comes from the Latin credo, which means "I believe". In confessing this ancient creed, we remind ourselves that what we believe and teach has been handed down to us by the Apostles. The Apostles' Creed is so named because it is a brief statement of the gospel truths they taught. Its writing and use dates to the early years of the Christian Church.]

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

Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You became one of us. Your hospitality knew and knows no bounds. You invited fishermen, a tax collector, people from all walks of life to be your disciples. You welcomed little children and took them up in your arms. You spoke to the woman at the well and offered her living water—forgiveness and life. Give us a rich measure of your Holy Spirit so that we take that same view of all people we meet. Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, you have turned our hearts from the darkness of sin and eternal death to the light of life and an eternity in heaven through Jesus Christ alone. You have given us eyes to see our Savior Jesus. Give us eyes to see each person we meet as one for whom our Savior died, and one God loves dearly. Give us the words to speak in love. Grow us in wisdom through our study of your word and grant us peace. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Father, you created us and continue to provide and protect us. Give us the courage and trust to take you at your word. Your word tells us, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9). Give

us the courage to be hospitable to others whether in the family of believers or those not yet in the family of believers. Protect and provide for us and let our generosity overflow to strangers. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Accept our prayers and grant all we need, not because we are worthy, but for the sake of Jesus Christ who lived a perfect life in our place and died for our sins and was raised again. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

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.

BIBLE STUDY

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

INTRODUCTION

In general, Christians are viewed negatively by mainstream pop culture while Jesus is viewed positively. Why? What would it take to change that perception?

INTO THE TEXT

1. The early Christians devoted themselves to four things. Explain how each prompted the unity they needed to reflect Jesus to their community:

* Apostles' teachings

* Fellowship

* Breaking of bread

* Prayer

2. Describe what your experience would have been if you were to visit this Congregation.

APPLYING IT

1. Hospitality is literally, “love of strangers,” in Greek. To loves strangers means that we as a church need to be outward focused. It is easy for churches to lose that perspective and focus on inward concerns. What are ways that our church could become too inward focused?

(i.e., How do we insure outward focus?)
2. Evaluate the importance of the following characteristics when it comes to the topic of “loving strangers”.
 - Expectations (i.e., I want everyone to know Jesus!)
 - Be genuine (i.e., don’t pretend to be someone you’re not)
 - Care about people (i.e., don’t just be friendly, be a friend)
3. The early church was “all for one and one for all!” They were generous with all of the gifts God had blessed them with. They were willing to share everything and others noticed. Come up with at least three ways our church can reflect that early Christian spirit of hospitality.

Video

CHALLENGE CARDS

Below is a list of ways that we might love strangers. On your own, pick out two that would be comfortable for you to do and one that you are not comfortable with. Be ready to explain why you picked the ones you picked. Are there any you would add to the list?

- Invite a guest at church out for lunch after worship
- Invite a church member who has never been to your home to your home for a meal
- Invite a friend to come with you to church and lunch afterwards
- Have a 60-second conversation with five people you don’t regularly talk to at church
- Talk to someone you don’t know well and introduce them to someone you do know well
- Find someone at church who seems to be involved in everything and ask how you can help them
- Visit homebound members with a devotion or simply for a visit
- Find a way to introduce yourself to your neighbors
- Make cookies for neighbors and deliver them in person
- Host a block party at your house
- Arrive to church 15 minutes early on Sunday to greet people
- Sit next to a new member/one you don’t know every Sunday
- Assist with coffee/treats for a Sunday

Refrain: How good it is and how pleasant
to live in unity and peace.
How good it is and how pleasant
to live together in one Lord.
(Last time only)
to live together in one Lord.

- 1 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
agree in ev'rything you say.
May there be no divisions among you,
but be united in one mind.
For there is one Lord, one faith,
one God of us all. **Refrain**

- 2 Live a life that is worthy of your call,
be humble, gentle, and patient.
Bear with each other in ways that are loving,
preserve the unity of faith.
For there is one Lord, one faith,
one God of us all. **Refrain**

- 3 Share the love that has joined us as one,
unite in spirit and ideals.
Never be rivals, do not be conceited,
but look to others in their need.
For there is one Lord, one faith,
one God of us all. **Refrain**

BLESSING

(The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" [Numbers 6:27].)

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.

OFFERING

[If you wish to give an offering you may do so on our website, lambogodlafayette.com and click GIVE in the upper right corner or text any dollar amount to 84321 to give or mail a check to the church—1893 E 600 North West Lafayette, IN 47906] or you may scan this QR code:



Serving at Worship

Pastor: Paul Horn
Flautist: Laura Sanford
Guitarist: Alex Becker
Percussionist: Henry Horn
Pianist: Liz Schmidt-Sampson
Violinists: Becky, Calliope and Sophia Horn

Ushers -

Today: Becker Family

July 31st: Schoonmaker Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE BASICS CLASS

Looking to learn more about the Bible, God, who you are and where you fit in this world?
You need to take Bible Basics!

Sundays at 9:00am

It's not too late to join in this class.

Bible Basics is a 12-lesson course that takes a fair, honest look at the main teachings of Christianity as they are found in the Bible. ***No matter what your religious beliefs or spiritual background, this class is intended for you!*** Before you make up your mind about church or religion, you owe it to yourself to hear what the Bible actually says – about God's love for you, and about his plan for your life. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and explore the Bible in a relaxed, non-judgmental setting. Scheduling is flexible, and we start new classes all the time. If you're interested in hearing more about this class, e-mail Pastor Paul Horn, loginlafayette@gmail.com

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?

If you are traveling this summer, check out our Synod's website, www.wels.net, to locate a church to attend if your travels find you somewhere other than the Greater Lafayette area on a Sunday morning. Once you get to the website, click on "Find a Church/School", type in the area to which you will be traveling and you will find a list of nearby churches.

VICAR MOVE-IN DATE—AUGUST 17th

We will be assisting our new Vicar and his wife, Jonah and Sierra Schlomer, as they move into their apartment on **August 17th. We will need help after 4:00pm on that date.** Please speak with Pastor Horn if you are available to assist. In addition, please watch for future announcements on items we want to collect prior to their arrival.

EVERYONE OUTREACH WORKSHOP

On **Friday, September 16th from 5:00-9:00pm and Saturday, September 17th from 9:00am-2:30pm** we will be holding our **Everyone Outreach Workshop**. This workshop is for all members and friends of Lamb of God, and the leadership team would love to see everyone attend! What is Everyone Outreach?

From traditions and attitudes to unwritten rules and habits, culture is the way people behave and work together. But can it be transformed? We think so. Everyone Outreach is designed to reveal the unconscious and invisible thought habits we hold and help participants discover unique insights to begin the journey of transformation.

****Childcare will be provided****

ARE YOU MENTOR MATERIAL?

Have you ever wished for the opportunity to make a meaningful difference, maybe even eternal difference, in someone's life? Or maybe you wished you had the training to know how to truly help someone with great needs?

This August or October, you can learn about mentoring a returning citizen, providing guidance and encouragement to a man or woman returning to your community or your church from incarceration. You're invited to participate in online training, Mentoring a Returning Citizen. The training will help you evaluate whether you have the gifts and abilities to serve as a mentor and, if so, equip you to begin your service. There is no commitment to serve if you take the course. The skills that are taught and practiced have application in many areas including parenting and interacting with people at work. So the time you invest will be well spent regardless of whether or not you decide to pursue this ministry.

The course will be a combination of online sessions with other participants, videos that can be viewed individually by the participants, and activities in a workbook that will be a combination of individual and group exercises. You can view elements of the course at welscongregational-services.net/mentoring-a-returning-citizen/. Details about the course can also be found there.

To register for the class or obtain more information, contact Prison Ministry Administrator Dave Hochmuth at dave.hochmuth@wels.net or Tom Koepsell at tgkoepsell45@gmail.com.

The facilitator for this course will be Prison Ministry Committee member Tom Koepsell. "Mentoring is a subject near to my heart," says Tom. "Having worked with the incarcerated for well over a decade, I have come to appreciate the challenges they will face upon release. But more than that, I have experienced the role their Savior is playing in their lives and what Jesus means when he talks about seeking and saving the lost. When you bring Jesus to such people, you learn to love them as Jesus does. It's a rewarding experience."

HELP NEEDED

There are several projects that the leadership team would like to tackle. If you have the skills (or want to learn) and the time to serve, **please email the church office** loginlafayette@gmail.com

1. Pressure wash, scrape and paint the playground set. There will be some pieces of wood that also need to be replaced. Repairing the border of the playground that holds in the mulch.
2. Keeping the ditch along 600N clear of garbage
3. Clearing out the brush along 600N toward the west
4. Sealing leaks in the gutters, especially those on the front of the building
5. Five people willing to be trained in the use of the AED.
6. **This fall:** cleaning up the prayer walk trail; thinning out the eastern property line
7. **This fall:** repairing the exterior of the fellowship hall

PRAYER REQUESTS

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Keep in your prayers this week: All those in our midst who may be dealing with physical ailments, emotional hurts or the loss of a loved one; for Patsy Avery who is under hospice care in Michigan town; for the victims and families affected by the shooting at the Greenwood Park Mall this past week; for all those who are traveling this summer; for Don Correll who continues treatment after surgery; for JW Holmes who continues to recover from open heart surgery; for our brothers and sisters

in Christ in Ukraine and all those who are suffering in the war in Ukraine; that God grant peace between Ukraine and Russia as well as between the warring nations in Africa; that the Holy Spirit would work in the hearts of all those who join us for worship each Sunday; for all those who are suffering from abuse in the home, that they might seek help; that the Lord grant wisdom to Governor Holcomb, President Biden, Vice President Harris, and the United State Congress; for the current state of our world, that we remember our God is still in charge and will sustain us and give us what we need; that our Lord would give us the means to show the love of Christ as we support our neighbors in need.