

# THE CHURCH *God* ~~WE~~ WANTS

## PUBLICITY CHECKLIST *The Church God Wants* 2023

**Please note:** Materials are available in both English and Spanish.

**SERIES THEME: *THE CHURCH GOD WANTS***

“I want a church that . . .” How would you complete that statement? Would you focus on size—big or small? Would you think more about style—formal versus laid back? Is it certain desired church programs that come to mind? What exactly do you want in a church?

In this worship series, we see that that is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: What does God want in a church? You might find a church that runs all the youth programs you want or has a vibe that you enjoy or is in your ideal location. But if that church is not doing what Christ wants it to do, then it really is not a spiritually healthy place to be. So, let us think about the church God wants. What does it look like? What are its priorities? What does it all do?

Date & Theme	Channel	Action	Wording
<p><b>Week of August 13</b> <i>Introduce theme</i></p>	<p>Worship folder/newsletter blurb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter</li> <li>Include “The Church God Wants” logo graphic</li> </ul>	<p>“I want a church that . . .” How would you complete that statement? Would you focus on size—big or small? Would you think more about style—formal versus laid back? Is it certain desired church programs that come to mind? What exactly do you want in a church?</p> <p>In this worship series, we see that that is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: What does God want in a church? You might find a church that runs all the youth programs you want or has a vibe that you enjoy or is in your ideal location. But if that church is not doing what Christ wants it to do, then it really is not a spiritually healthy</p>

			<p>place to be. So, let us think about the church God wants. What does it look like? What are its priorities? What does it all do?</p> <p>Join us next week for a new series—<i>The Church God Wants</i>.</p>
	Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” title Facebook graphic</li> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” 1x1 video file (<i>available with or without WELS logo at end of video</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>“I want a church that . . .” How would you complete that statement? What exactly do you want in a church? In this worship series, we see that that is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: What does God want in a church?</p> <p>Join us next week for a new series—<i>The Church God Wants</i>.</p>
	Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” title social post square graphic</li> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” 1x1 video file (<i>available with or without WELS logo at end of video</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>“I want a church that . . .” How would you complete that statement? What exactly do you want in a church? In this worship series, we see that that is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: What does God want in a church?</p> <p>Join us next week for a new series—<i>The Church God Wants</i>.</p>
	Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” 16x9 video file to YouTube or Vimeo (<i>versions available with or without WELS logo at end of video</i>)</li> <li>• Show “The Church God Wants” 16x9 video file during this week’s worship announcements</li> </ul>	<p>“I want a church that . . .” How would you complete that statement? What exactly do you want in a church? In this worship series, we see that that is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: What does God want in a church?</p> <p>Join us for a new series— <i>The Church God Wants</i>.</p>
	Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post theme information</li> <li>• Post link to “The Church God Wants” video on YouTube or Vimeo</li> </ul>	<p>“I want a church that . . .” How would you complete that statement? Would you focus on size—big or small? Would you think more about style—formal versus laid back? Is it certain desired church programs that come to mind? What exactly do you want in a church?</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” website graphic</li> </ul>	<p>In this worship series, we see that that is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: What does God want in a church? You might find a church that runs all the youth programs you want or has a vibe that you enjoy or is in your ideal location. But if that church is not doing what Christ wants it to do, then it really is not a spiritually healthy place to be. So, let us think about the church God wants. What does it look like? What are its priorities? What does it all do?</p> <p>Join us for a new series—<i>The Church God Wants</i>.</p>
	Digital display graphics (3 slide options)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blank slide (4x3 or 16x9)</li> <li>• Small logo slide (4x3 or 16x9)</li> <li>• Title slide (4x3 or 16x9)</li> <li>• Show on small screens (4x3) or digital display screens (16x9) before and after worship or during announcements this week</li> </ul>	Join us next week for a new series— <i>The Church God Wants</i> .
<b>Sunday, August 20</b> <i>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost—Proper 15</i>	Worship folder template	Use “The Church God Wants” worship folder cover	
<b>Theme of the Day:</b> A Church for All People	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter</li> <li>• Include “The Church God Wants” logo graphic</li> </ul>	<p>“All are welcome!” Is that true at our church? Historically, it rarely is true. In the gospels, the average Jewish person would have thought it odd, even offensive, if someone who wasn’t an Israelite walked into their place of worship. Taking it a step further, some of the Jewish religious leaders would imply that church was meant for those who zealously followed religious customs and traditions. Those were “good church folk.” So church was meant for people of the right heritage and who behaved the right way. What about</p>

			<p>us? Is it conceivable that a stranger could walk into our church and for some reason you would ask yourself, “What is someone like that doing here?” Or, just perhaps, you are asking that question about yourself? “There are some seemingly godly people here. I’m not like them. Do I really belong?”</p> <p>Today, Jesus shows us that God wants church to be for all people. All of us—regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, or social status—have the same problem of sin. And we all have the same Savior. Therefore, anyone who comes to Christ’s Church and cries out, “Lord, have mercy!” is more than welcome.</p>
	Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” quote Facebook graphic</li> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” 1x1 video file (<i>available with or without WELS logo at end of video</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>“All are welcome!” Is that true at our church? Historically, it rarely is true. Today, Jesus shows us that God wants church to be for all people. All of us—regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, or social status—have the same problem of sin. And we all have the same Savior. Therefore, anyone who comes to Christ’s Church and cries out, “Lord, have mercy!” is more than welcome.</p>
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			<p>“good church folk.” So church was meant for people of the right heritage and who behaved the right way. What about us? Is it conceivable that a stranger could walk into our church and for some reason you would ask yourself, “What is someone like that doing here?” Or, just perhaps, you are asking that question about yourself? “There are some seemingly godly people here. I’m not like them. Do I really belong?”</p> <p>Today, Jesus shows us that God wants church to be for all people. All of us—regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, or social status—have the same problem of sin. And we all have the same Savior. Therefore, anyone who comes to Christ’s Church and cries out, “Lord, have mercy!” is more than welcome.</p>
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<b>Sunday, August 27</b> <i>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Proper 16</i>	Worship folder template	Use “The Church God Wants” worship folder cover	
<b>Theme of the Day:</b> A Church that Really Knows Jesus	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter</li> <li>• Include “The Church God Wants” logo graphic</li> </ul>	Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?” Make no mistake. That is the most important question in the world. And it is a question every human must answer. A complimentary answer can still be dead wrong. Some in Jesus’ day thought he was John the Baptist or the prophet Elijah come back from the dead. Complimentary, but dead wrong. Today plenty of people believe Jesus existed. They believe he was

			<p>a wise teacher or a role model for love. Complimentary, but dead wrong if missing the main point.</p> <p>Jesus is both Lord and Savior, the Messiah, the Son of the living God. This truth is the core of saving faith. It is the central message God has called our church to proclaim. What does God want in a church? He wants a church that really knows Jesus.</p>
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<b>Sunday, September 3</b> <i>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Proper 17</i>	Worship folder template	Use “The Church God Wants” worship folder cover	
<b>Theme of the Day:</b> A Church that Takes Up Its Crosses	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter</li> <li>• Include “The Church God Wants” logo graphic</li> </ul>	<p>Some churches teach that if one follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace. Today Jesus teaches that is nonsense. The Son of God tells us that if we are his disciple, if we are part of his Church, we will have to bear crosses. Believers will suffer in this world, oftentimes for no other reason than they are believers. It is painful to struggle against the temptations and priorities of this world. It can be agonizing to face the same scorn and ridicule Jesus faced.</p> <p>Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us to bear because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. The church takes up its crosses, because this is the Christian path, the one Jesus himself walked: first the cross, then the crown.</p>
	Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” quote Facebook graphic</li> </ul>	The Son of God tells us that if we are his disciple, we will have to bear crosses. Why bother? We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are

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<b>Sunday, September 10</b> <i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Proper 18</i>	Worship folder template	Use “The Church God Wants” worship folder cover	
<b>Theme of the Day:</b> A Church Willing to Say Hard Things	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter</li> <li>Include “The Church God Wants” logo graphic</li> </ul>	<p>Imagine, late one night, you notice the house across the street is on fire. You see no activity inside. You say to yourself, “Pounding on the door in the middle of the night might scare the family. I’m sure they’ll realize what’s going on eventually.” Ridiculous! You would never do that! To let a family sleep while flames surround them would be cruel. Your inaction would make you a killer. The truth is you would pound on their door at 3:00 a.m., screaming. You would throw a brick through their front window if that was what it took to warn them. You would not care if it startled the family. This is a matter of life and death! Love compels you to do whatever it takes.</p> <p>God wants the people of his church to be willing to say hard things to people when that is what is necessary to save them from an even worse type of fire. Warning against sin is not easy. It upsets people, even offends them. But saying hard things is the loving thing to do when it is a matter of eternal life and death.</p>
	Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post “The Church God Wants” quote Facebook graphic</li> <li>Post “The Church God Wants” 1x1 video file (<i>available with or without WELS logo at end of video</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>Imagine, late one night, you notice the house across the street is on fire. You say to yourself, “Pounding on the door in the middle of the night might scare the family. I’m sure they’ll realize what’s going on eventually.” Ridiculous! This is a matter of life and death! Love compels you to do whatever it takes. God wants the people of his church to be willing to say hard things to people when that is what is necessary to save them from an even worse type of fire. Saying hard things is the loving thing to do when it is a matter of eternal life and death.</p>

	Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” quote social post square graphic</li> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” 1x1 video file (<i>available with or without WELS logo at end of video</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>Imagine, late one night, you notice the house across the street is on fire. You say to yourself, “Pounding on the door in the middle of the night might scare the family. I’m sure they’ll realize what’s going on eventually.” Ridiculous! This is a matter of life and death! Love compels you to do whatever it takes. God wants the people of his church to be willing to say hard things to people when that is what is necessary to save them from an even worse type of fire. Saying hard things is the loving thing to do when it is a matter of eternal life and death.</p>
	Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post theme information</li> <li>• Post link to “The Church God Wants” video on YouTube or Vimeo</li> <li>• Post “The Church God Wants” website graphic</li> </ul>	<p>Imagine, late one night, you notice the house across the street is on fire. You see no activity inside. You say to yourself, “Pounding on the door in the middle of the night might scare the family. I’m sure they’ll realize what’s going on eventually.” Ridiculous! You would never do that! To let a family sleep while flames surround them would be cruel. Your inaction would make you a killer. The truth is you would pound on their door at 3:00 a.m., screaming. You would throw a brick through their front window if that was what it took to warn them. You would not care if it startled the family. This is a matter of life and death! Love compels you to do whatever it takes.</p> <p>God wants the people of his church to be willing to say hard things to people when that is what is necessary to save them from an even worse type of fire. Warning against sin is not easy. It upsets people, even offends them. But saying hard things is the loving thing to do when it is a matter of eternal life and death.</p>
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		before worship or during announcements	
<b>Sunday, September 17</b> <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Proper 19</i>	Worship folder template	Use “The Church God Wants” worship folder cover	
<b>Theme of the Day:</b> A Church That’s Quick to Forgive	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter</li> <li>Include “The Church God Wants” logo graphic</li> </ul>	<p>“Pay it forward.” That phrase means that when someone does something for you, instead of paying that person back directly, you pass along kindness to another person instead. Doing something kind for someone else is a way of thanking the person who originally did something kind for you.</p> <p>Today God applies that concept to forgiveness. God forgave our countless sins. He was willing to pay an incomprehensible price—the death of his Son. Obviously, we will never have occasion do the same for God. We will never have to forgive God because everything he does for us shows perfect love and care. God never wrongs us. But others may do us wrong. Others may cause us pain. And when we are quick to forgive, it is one way we thank God for being so quick to forgive us. This is what God wants in his Church—people who, like him, are quick to forgive.</p>
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