

PUBLICITY CHECKLIST Season after Pentecost, Series 1, 2024

Please Note: Most publicity materials are available in both English and Spanish.

SERIES THEME: A Top-Down Faith

The phrase "from the top down" is often used to denote a hierarchical system of management or governance. The will and beliefs and directives of those "at the top" are imposed—sometimes aggressively, sometimes even oppressively—on those below. From the top down.

We have entered the second half of the Church Year, the half that focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. We will see that Christianity is very much a top-down faith. Christian teachings come "from the top down," but not in the sense that those teachings are oppressively imposed on us. When we call Christianity a "top-down faith," we mean that it tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good—teachings that couldn't possibly have originated from human thinking. The Christian faith contains teachings that are so wonderful that we would never even believe them unless God himself revealed their truthfulness to us. So, God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth—from the top down—to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable.

Date & Theme	Channel	Action	Wording
Week of May 19, 2024 Introduce theme	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	 Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter Include "A Top-Down Faith" logo graphic 	The phrase "from the top down" is often used to denote a hierarchical system of management or governance. The will and beliefs and directives of those "at the top" are imposed—sometimes aggressively, sometimes even oppressively—on those below. From the top down.

	 Post "A Top-Down Faith" title Facebook graphic Post "A Top-Down Faith" 1x1 video file (available with or without WELS logo at end of video) Post "A Top-Down Faith" title 	We have entered the second half of the Church Year, the half that focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. We will see that Christianity is very much a top-down faith. Christian teachings come "from the top down," but not in the sense that those teachings are oppressively imposed on us. When we call Christianity a "top-down faith," we mean that it tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good—teachings that couldn't possibly have originated from human thinking. The Christian faith contains teachings that are so wonderful that we would never even believe them unless God himself revealed their truthfulness to us. So, God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth—from the top down—to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable. Join us next week for a new series: A Top-Down Faith. The phrase "from the top down" is often used to denote a hierarchical system of management or governance. The will and beliefs and directives of those "at the top" are imposed—sometimes aggressively, sometimes even oppressively—on those below. Next week, we will see that Christianity is very much a top-down faith because it tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good—teachings that couldn't possibly have originated from human thinking. God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth—from the top down—to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable. Join us next week for a new series: A Top-Down Faith.
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Website	 Post theme information Post link to "A Top-Down Faith" video on YouTube or Vimeo Post "A Top-Down Faith" graphic 	The phrase "from the top down" is often used to denote a hierarchical system of management or governance. The will and beliefs and directives of those "at the top" are imposed—sometimes aggressively, sometimes even oppressively—on those below. From the top down. We have entered the second half of the Church Year, the half that focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. We
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		Join us next week for a new series: A Top-Down Faith.
Video	 Post "A Top-Down Faith" 16x9 video file to YouTube or Vimeo (available with or without WELS logo at end of video) 	The phrase "from the top down" is often used to denote a hierarchical system of management or governance. The will and beliefs and directives of those "at the top" are imposed—sometimes aggressively, sometimes even

	Digital display graphics (3 slide options)	 Show "A Top-Down Faith" 16x9 video file during this week's worship announcements Blank slide (4x3 or 16x9) Title slide (4x3 or 16x9) Icon slide (4x3 or 16x9) Icon slide (4x3 or 16x9) Show on small screens (4x3) or digital display screens (16x9) before and after worship or 	oppressively—on those below. Next week, we will see that Christianity is very much a top-down faith because it tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good—teachings that couldn't possibly have originated from human thinking. God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth—from the top down—to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable. Join us next week for a new series: A Top-Down Faith. Join us next week for a new series: A Top-Down Faith
		during announcements this week	
Sunday, May 26 First Sunday after Pentecost—Holy Trinity	Worship folder template	 Use "A Top-Down Faith" worship folder cover PDF 	
<i>Theme of the Day:</i> Only a Triune God Can Deliver What Only a Triune God Can Offer	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	 Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter Include "A Top-Down Faith" logo graphic 	No Christian teaching demonstrates that we have a top- down faith more than the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Scripture teaches that there is only one God. Yet that God exists as three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Incomprehensible! It is the type of teaching about which the psalmist declares, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain" (Psalm 139:6). We believe in the triune God without fully comprehending his existence, simply because the Spirit has given us the gift of faith. Our belief in the triune God came from the top down. Not only is the concept of the Trinity itself something unique to the Christian faith, but what the triune God does

		for us and offers us is also completely unique. Our triune God invites us into the blessed relationship that is part of his very nature. The members of the Trinity share with us an intimacy that they have enjoyed with each other from eternity. Our triune God makes us not servants or subjects but blessed members of his family.
Facebo	ok • Post "A Top-Down Faith" qι Facebook graphic	No Christian teaching demonstrates that we have a top- down faith more than the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Scripture teaches that there is only one God. Yet that God exists as three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Incomprehensible! We believe in the triune God without fully comprehending his existence, simply because the Spirit has given us the gift of faith. The members of the Trinity share with us an intimacy that they have enjoyed with each other from eternity. Our triune God makes us not servants or subjects but blessed members of his family.
Social N	 Post "A Top-Down Faith" que social post square graphic 	uoteNo Christian teaching demonstrates that we have a top- down faith more than the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Scripture teaches that there is only one God. Yet that God exists as three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Incomprehensible! We believe in the triune God without fully comprehending his existence, simply because the Spirit has given us the gift of faith. The members of the Trinity share with us an intimacy that they have enjoyed with each other from eternity. Our triune God makes us not servants or subjects but blessed members of his family.
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Sunday, June 2 Second Sunday after Pentecost	Worship folder template	 Use "A Top-Down Faith" worship folder cover PDF 	
Theme of the Day: Rest Is a Gift, Not Something to Be Earned	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	 Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter Include "A Top-Down Faith" logo graphic 	After a long day of work, you have earned the right to sit down in your favorite chair, put your feet up, and watch your favorite program. After a hard week on the job, you have earned the opportunity to relax a bit that weekend. After doing your job well for many months, you have earned those two weeks of vacation at the beach. This is how everyone thinks: rest is something you earn through hard work. We even teach that to our kids: no gaming until homework is done, no playing with friends until chores are complete.

		Since that concept of rest being earned is so deeply ingrained in us, to properly understand <i>spiritual</i> rest requires a top-down faith. God needs to send us the Spirit so that we can grasp this truth. True spiritual rest cannot be earned. In fact, the harder you try, the more restless and the less peaceful you become. Spiritual rest is a gift that God gives. The rest we need most—from guilt, from worry, from shame, from hopelessness—is graciously given to us by the Lord of the Sabbath.
Facebook	 Post "A Top-Down Faith" quote Facebook graphic 	After a long day of work, you have earned the right to sit down in your favorite chair, put your feet up, and watch your favorite program. This is how everyone thinks: rest is something you earn through hard work. Since that concept of rest being earned is so deeply ingrained in us, to properly understand <i>spiritual</i> rest requires a top-down faith. The rest we need most—from guilt, from worry, from shame, from hopelessness—is graciously given to us by the Lord of the Sabbath.
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Sunday, June 9 Third Sunday after Pentecost	Worship folder template	Use "A Top-Down Faith" worship folder cover PDF	
<i>Theme of the Day:</i> The Devil Does His Worst, Yet Jesus Always Wins	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	 Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter Include "A Top-Down Faith" logo graphic 	Look at our lives—the problems, the pains—and it's easy to conclude that we are losing. Look at the world—the brokenness, the bedlam—and it's easy to believe that the devil is winning. It all can lead us to despair. Yet this turmoil is exactly what God said would happen already in the Garden. There God declared that until the end of time enmity would prevail between the devil and mankind. But God promised more than that. He promised that from humanity would rise one who would completely defeat the devil.

		We need a top-down faith to understand that things are definitely not what they seem. Yes, the devil and his allies are constantly doing their worst. Their work always brings pain. Yet, ultimately, Jesus always wins. And his victory is our victory. Jesus' victory is so complete that even when Satan continues to cause chaos, Christ uses it to reveal his glory and grace to those gifted with top-down faith.
Facebook	 Post "A Top-Down Faith" quote Facebook graphic 	Look at our lives—the problems, the pains—and it's easy to conclude that we are losing. Look at the world—the brokenness, the bedlam—and it's easy to believe that the devil is winning. It all can lead us to despair. We need a top- down faith to understand that things are definitely not what they seem. Yes, the devil and his allies are constantly doing their worst. Yet, ultimately, Jesus always wins. And his victory is our victory.
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Sunday, June 16 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Worship folder template	Use "A Top-Down Faith" worship folder cover PDF	
Theme of the Day: From the Tiniest Seed Grows the Largest Kingdom	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	 Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter Include "A Top-Down Faith" logo graphic 	Usually, a kingdom advances and is secured through things like military might or political force or worldly wealth. It can be tempting to believe the same holds true in the kingdom of God. Perhaps we think churches would flourish if we had the right rulers passing and enforcing the right laws. Or we believe that for a church to do good requires a robust budget. Political force. Worldly wealth. This way of thinking is breathtakingly wrong. We need God to give us the top-down faith that grasps the fact that the kingdom of God advances in ways that are imperceptible. Through something that seems insignificant to most—the gospel—the King of kings establishes his reign in human hearts. Even Jesus himself taught that the gospel seems unimpressive, for he often compared the gospel to a

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		tiny seed. Yet within a seed is hidden life. As the seed of the
		gospel is planted, the largest of all kingdoms grows.
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Sunday, June 23 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Worship folder template	 Use "A Top-Down Faith" worship folder cover PDF 	
<i>Theme of the Day:</i> Our Gracious God Is with Us through All the Storms of Life	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	 Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter Include "A Top-Down Faith" logo graphic 	A powerful tornado rolls through your neighborhood. A massive hurricane heads straight for your city. A bolt of lightning sends 300 million volts to earth. The raw power and unpredictability of storms can inspire both awe and terror. We cannot stop storms from coming. We can only hope to survive them. However, we know the Almighty God can stop storms. He can calm literal storms. He could remove metaphorical storms, other types of troubles and trials. So, if he can, why doesn't he? Well, would you rather have a God who was distant from you but removed all the storms of life? Or would you rather have a God who allowed some storms to come but promised to be right there by your side within them, holding you close? May God give us the top-down faith that

			sees that the latter is by far the better option. God promises to be with us through all the storms of life. Sometimes he removes them. But when he doesn't, it's only because he has plans to use even storms for our eternal good.
Fa	acebook	 Post "A Top-Down Faith" quote Facebook graphic 	A powerful tornado rolls through your neighborhood. A massive hurricane heads straight for your city. We cannot stop storms from coming. However, we know the Almighty God can stop storms. He could also remove metaphorical storms, other types of troubles and trials. So why doesn't he?
			Well, would you rather have a God who was distant from you but removed all the storms of life? Or would you rather have a God who allowed some storms to come but promised to be right there by your side within them? May God give us the top-down faith that sees that the latter is by far the better option.
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Sunday, June 30 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Worship folder template	Use "A Top-Down Faith" worship folder cover PDF	
<i>Theme of the Day:</i> The Living Lord Completely Changes Our View of Death	Worship folder/newsletter blurb	 Place blurb in print and electronic versions of worship folder and newsletter Include "A Top-Down Faith" logo graphic 	Most people fear death to some degree. Some fear death because they assume it is the end. Others fear death because they assume it isn't the end at all, but that there is some sort of reckoning after death, which might not go well for them. And have you seen what happens to a dead body? It is far from pretty. So, it is understandable that most people would fear death.

		Not so for those to whom God has given a top-down faith. Christianity teaches that for God's children death is not discipline but deliverance. The living Lord gives Christians such a radically different view of death that they can have confidence to face death in their effort to give Christ glory. They understand that death does not cut us down, but only raises us up. Finally, the Christian has been given the top-
		down faith that believes Jesus can wake us from death as easily as we can wake a sleeping child from his nap.
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