

**FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST  
SEE THE LORD BY FAITH**



**ST. PAULS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL  
HOWARD GROVE, MI



## IN THE NAME OF JESUS

### THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:

*The Need for Followership:* When the bathroom is all steamy after the morning shower, it can be impossible to see yourself in the mirror to get ready for the day – and then embarrassing to go about your day not knowing what you look like. It is even worse to go through life blind to God – it is deadly. Today's worship is about seeing ourselves and our complete dependence on God clearly. Then we go about each day by Spirit-worked and gospel-powered faith looking to Jesus. The steam scatters and we follow him, "Seeing the Lord by Faith".

**WELCOME!** Thank you for joining us for worship 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. These are the colored cloths with symbols on them hanging from the altar and pulpit. They 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 in the southwest corner of the narthex across from 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. 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

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

## ANTHEM

*Walk by Faith*  
*St. Paul's Sunday School*

Do you know we walk by faith, and we don't walk by sight? 'Cause we're trusting in the One, who will never leave our side. We are confident in this: his love and faithfulness will see us through.

We got the Way; we got the Light. We got the love of Jesus, the love of Jesus Christ. For he is with us; he will abide. We put our faith in Jesus, our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,  
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**Kyrie**

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**Liturgy appreciation:** Prayer often introduced Old Testament worship, and the early Christians continued the custom of beginning their gathering with a responsive prayer. As we gather around God's Word, we seek the Lord's mercy: though we sinners deserve only punishment, we ask that the Lord would instead spare us and provide for us in our great need. This was the prayer of the ten lepers, the Canaanite woman, blind men, and of God's people still today.

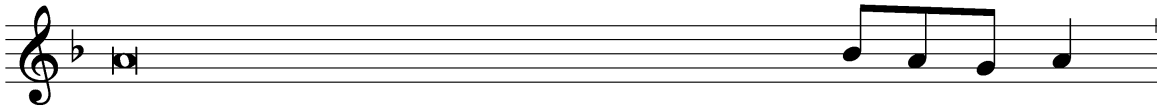
*Kyrie* (KEE-ree-ay) is Greek for Lord and *Gloria in excelsis* is Latin for Glory in the highest. The ancient titles remind us that Christians have sung these songs for centuries in countless musical settings. These two song texts and three others are from a set of songs called the Ordinary. The words of these five songs repeat the most important teachings of the gospel, and that's why we often use them still.

Glory Be to God on High combines three ancient hymns. You'll recognize the first as the song the angels sang on the fields of Bethlehem. This hymn proclaims Jesus Christ as the center of God's plan to save the world. We sing it often because it is worth remembering and memorizing.

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In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



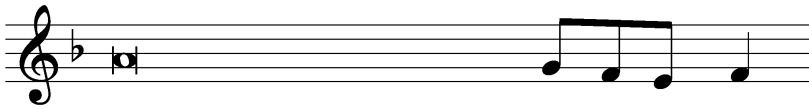
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



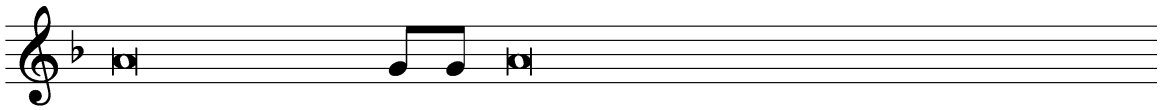
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



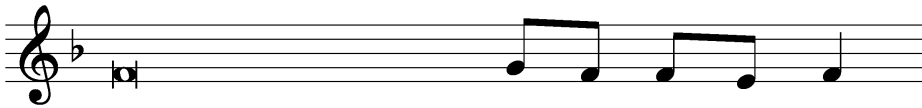
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Tune: Kevin Becker  
Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722076

## GLORY TO GOD

## Gloria

*Tune: IN BABILONE*



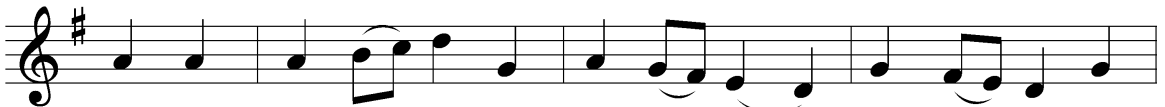
1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he  
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our



loves so well. On the earth let all his peo - ple  
sin a - way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed—



speak his grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your  
for your mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and



glo - ry, might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our joy - ful  
ho - ly, Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the glo - ry



ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.  
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

Text: Michael A. Perry  
Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse ... Contradanseu, Amsterdam, c. 1710  
Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722076  
Tune: Public domain

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God, the helper of all who call on you,  
have mercy on us and give us eyes of faith  
to see your Son that we may follow him  
on the way that leads to eternal life;  
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*

**BAPTISM | 10:30A**

*Brynn Taisy Bull  
daughter of Tim and Brittany Bull*



## FIRST READING

*Jeremiah 31:7-9*

*The LORD would bring back the remnant of Israel, blind and lame, so that they would pray and walk and be refreshed.*

<sup>7</sup>This is what the LORD says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob;  
shout for the foremost of the nations.

Make your praises heard, and say,

‘LORD, save your people,  
the remnant of Israel.’

<sup>8</sup>See, I will bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the ends of the earth.

Among them will be the blind and the lame,  
expectant mothers and women in labor;  
a great throng will return.

<sup>9</sup>They will come with weeping;  
they will pray as I bring them back.

I will lead them beside streams of water  
on a level path where they will not stumble,  
because I am Israel’s father,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# O GOD, BE GRACIOUS

Psalm 4C

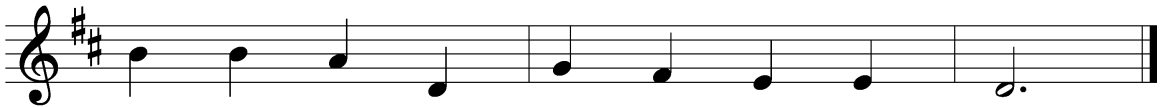
*The LORD has mercy on us in our distress;  
he hears our prayer and fills our hearts with joy.*



1 O God, be gra - cious; hear my prayer, and  
2 How long, O God, will li - ars boast while  
3 When ter - ror wakes me from my dreams and  
4 Some fear that you will not pro - vide; they  
5 Now lay me down to sleep in peace; in



an - swer when I cry. You give me hope in  
I am smeared with shame? Come, set your faith - ful  
shakes me through and through, teach me to pray with  
cry, "Show us your face!" But you have sat - is -  
safe - ty let me rest. O God, with - in your



my dis - tress; you will not pass me by.  
ser - vant free; I call up - on your name!  
con - fi - dence and put my trust in you.  
fied my heart with good - ness, joy, and grace.  
lov - ing care I am for - ev - er blessed.

Text: David Gambrell  
Tune: Thomas Tallis, alt.  
Text: © 2011 David Gambrell, admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722076  
Tune: Public domain

## SECOND READING

*Revelation 3:14-22*

*Jesus showed the church in Laodicea how poor, naked, and blind they were; only by faith in him could they be rich, clothed, and able to see.*

<sup>14</sup>“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. <sup>15</sup>I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup>I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

<sup>19</sup>Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. <sup>20</sup>Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

<sup>21</sup>To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

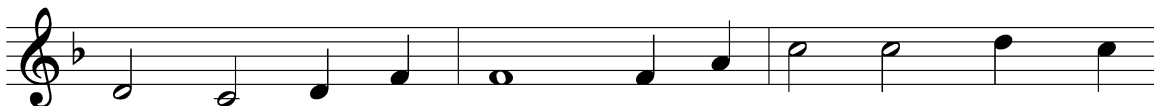
## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness | 517



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -  
 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren with a strong, yet  
 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing  
 gen - tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the  
 in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the  
 pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool  
 may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing  
 wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand; from this  
 glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.  
 well comes liv - ing wa - ter, quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt.  
 Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844  
 Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722076  
 Tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## GOSPEL

*Mark 10:46-52*

*Blind Bartimaeus called to Jesus for mercy and by faith asked him to see.*

<sup>46</sup>Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

<sup>48</sup>Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

<sup>49</sup>Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” <sup>50</sup>Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup>“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

<sup>52</sup>“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy  
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not to rid my  
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a  
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me and that thou bidd'st me come to  
 soul of one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
 heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need, in thee to



thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 because thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
 now to be thine, yea thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871  
 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868  
 Text and tune: Public domain

*A Noisy Faith*  
*Royalty – Relentlessly - Recovery*

*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.**

*Be seated*

## CONNECT

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We would kindly ask everyone to fill out a Connect Card now. If you are worshipping with us virtually, we kindly ask that you also fill out a digital Connect Card. What will be the “next steps” you can take as a response to the message you have heard today? You can also let us know how we can pray for you or ask for more information on one of the ministries or programs we are offering. Thank you!

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## OFFERING

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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.



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*Stand*

## 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.**

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.**

*Special intercessions*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

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

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

*Be seated*

## HYMN OF DEPARTURE

Amazing Grace | 576

*Hymn Appreciation:* One of the most well-known hymns in the world, "Amazing Grace" was written by John Newton, a slave trader and sea captain who knew well both sin and grace. Brought to faith by God...John Newton left that world behind and served as a pastor for 35 years. His grave marker in an England cemetery is engraved with words he wrote himself: *John Newton, clerk, once an Infidel and Libertine, a servant of slavers in Africa, was, by the rich Mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the Faith he had long labored to destroy.*



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that  
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1-3): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790  
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman  
Text and tune: Public domain

## *SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:*

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**PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER:** Pastor Adam Bode

**SERVICE ACCOMPANIST:** Marilyn Toepel

**ALTAR GUILD:** Bonnie Baumann, Jean Porter, Julie Brunner, Lisa Specht

**USHERS:** 8:00a – Randy Wehrmann, Craig Thiel, Neil Pahl, Zach Prem, Matthew Prem

10:30a – Brian Grimm, Travis Krell, Nick Schmidt, Zach Theobald

**OFFERINGS:** 10.13 & 10.14 – \$16,000 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$19,200) | \$250 – FAITH FOR THE FUTURE | \$9,400 – GROWING FORWARD

**ATTENDANCE:** 10.13 & 10.14 – 8:00A – 233 | 10:30A – 122 | 6:00P – 35

### **IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...**

- ◆ Freya Ruth Dolan, born to Josh and Kelli Dolan this past week.

**Brian Pechman**

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