



Live Ready!

Welcome, guests! If you're new to orthodox (Bible-conserving) Lutheran worship, there may be a lot more going on than meets the eye. Don't be offended or worried if you don't "get it" the first few times you worship here. Know that you are welcome here while you begin to learn the language and culture of this assembly dedicated to the crucified and living Christ.

What's next?

If you're just getting back to church or looking for a new church, let this be your road map on the journey.

→ **Come back next week.** Continue to strengthen your connection to God's Word and his people.

→ **Sign up for The Four Key Concepts.** This short course gives you the very basics for a good relationship with God and an introduction to his precious Word, the Bible.

→ **Sign up for Bible Inquirer's Class.** This comparative religions course digs into the Bible's basic teachings while letting you see how other religions and denominations, including ours, handle those teachings. You get to see the Bible's own word on these topics and let God's Spirit show you what the Bible says. This is a pre-requisite for membership here because we base membership not on feelings and style but on unity in God's precious truths.

- **Personal Hearing Devices** are available in the pass-through window near the elevator.
- **Please silence or turn off your cell**, for an undisturbed worship hour!
- **Restrooms are downstairs**, through doors on the west wall.
- **For Parents:** If your child is restless during the service, please use the lobby or lower level to quiet him/her down before rejoining worship. Children's worship bags, next to the elevator door, are available for use during the service.
- **Offerings:** Our offerings allow us to participate in God's kingdom work. If you are a guest, you are not expected to participate in the offering. We're just glad you can be here and listen to God's Word with us!
- There are **resources for you and your family** to discover on the display tables in the narthex (lobby). Take home some helpful tools and news – free!
- **Sunday School** is a HUGE blessing for all ages at St. John's! Just after the announcements, children are encouraged to head for the lobby to meet up with their Sunday School teachers. They'll lead them to snacks and the start of Sunday School! Adults and teens can head downstairs where the fun begins in a topic focused on growing your lifestyle and character.

Our Mission Statement

Learn, love, live for Christ!

- **Holy Communion**

- *Guests:* Our Lord Jesus has given us this holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

Because of the differences in backgrounds and denominations, we ask guests who are not yet members of a WELS or ELS church **to wait** before communing. This will give you time to work with Pastor on joining our fellowship and communing in a way that truly fits God's will and promises.

- *The List:* Those communing today, please find your name on the Communion lists by the main entry and indicate that you have communed today. This record helps us keep healthy, accurate statistics and an understanding of our communing members. If your name is not on the list, please write it in. Alternatively, you may use the red Friendship Registers to record your presence at the Lord's table.

- *Procedure:* At the direction of the ushers, move up the side aisle nearest you, and form a line standing before the front pews. Pastor will distribute the bread. The elder will offer individual cups to all who wish one. Pastor will then bring the chalice to those without an individual cup. Take the chalice from his hands, drink from it, and then hand it back to him. He will then pronounce the blessing to all, before you return to your seat down the center aisle.

- *Gluten-free?* If you prefer gluten-free wafers, just point to the container in Pastor's hand as he distributes the bread.

Live Ready!

In our recent message series, we saw how the book of Revelation depicts details about the end of time. The season of Advent is a season of preparation, both for celebrating Christmas as well as preparing our hearts for Jesus' second coming. We want to be ready at all times, to live ready! Through our service today, gather into your heart and mind what is necessary for living in true readiness!

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN – *The Advent of Our King*

CW 1

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen!

CONFESSION OF SINS

PSALM 25 – *The sound of a ready heart*

page 74 in the front of the hymnal

M: 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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

CW 28, verses 1 and 4

**C: ♪ Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.**

**Welcome, O my Savior, now! Joyful Lord, to you I bow.
Come into my heart, I pray; oh, prepare yourself a way.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

The minister says the prayer.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 – *The beauty of a ready life*

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹²May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

SECOND LESSON: Luke 21:25-36 – *Signs of the times*

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³²“I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

CHILDREN’S LESSON: **Are You Afraid of the Worst Disasters?**

All children are invited to the front rows near the pulpit for a special message geared to them. Young ones who might not listen quietly can easily be accompanied by an older person!

MESSAGE

How to Not Be Ready

Genesis 19:15-17, 23-29

¹⁵With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.”

¹⁶When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.

¹⁷As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!”

²³By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. ²⁴Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah – from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities – and also the vegetation in the land. ²⁶But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

²⁷Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. ²⁸He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

²⁹So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

Setting

What Sodom and the neighboring cities were like

Two angels visit to investigate

Escape and Destruction

What we learn about being prepared for Judgment Day
From Lot

From Lot's wife

Where do you stand?
Really cannot serve _____

God calls for _____

What's your next move?

OFFERING

At this time please use the red Friendship Registers to mark your presence today, as well as indicate if you communed and/or you have any requests or information updates to make.

As the offering is brought forward, the congregation rises to sing hymn 4, verse 5, Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE 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.

THE SACRAMENT

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

Because of the differences in backgrounds and denominations, we ask guests who are not yet members of a WELS or ELS church to wait before communing. This will give you time to work with Pastor on joining our fellowship and communing in a way that truly fits God's will and promises.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

DISTRIBUTION

During the distribution the congregation may sing the following hymns:

CW 27 – *O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are*

CW 32 – *When Sinners See Their Lost Condition*

THANKSGIVING

IN PEACE, LORD

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: O God, the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament, and in all the other gospel messages of our worship service. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: 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.

C: Amen!

CLOSING HYMN – *Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring*

CW 26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the announcements, children are invited to head into the lobby and meet up with the Sunday School teachers. They will lead the children to the snack area and the beginning of Sunday School!

Serving in God's House Today

Officiant Pastor Chris Cordes
Organist Ronald Shilling
Lector Jerry Dittbenner
Elder on Duty Steve Windschitl
Counters D. Guhlke/S. & S. Hinderman



Special Prayers List: Chary Heideman; Arlene & Arnie Hinderman; Al Maasz; Konner Mathiowetz; Peyton Moldan; George Piotter; Lorelei Tauer; William Trebesch



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Bulletin Board

Bible Class: Here is the Sunday Bible class schedule for December:

- **Today:** Part One of real life examples of *Parenting with Love & Logic*.
- December 9: Part Two of real life examples of *Parenting with Love & Logic*.
- December 16: A Closer Look at the Christmas Story, Part One.
- December 23: A Closer Look at the Christmas Story, Part Two.
- December 30: Fun Fellowship Hour

Next Sunday's Worship Theme: *Ready in Heart for Jesus.*

Outreach Planning! The awesome, first, Advance-Plan meeting for Outreach will happen this Wednesday evening, December 5, at 8pm sharp! Since you have a passion for the lost and unchurched, come help create a big-picture plan for June 2019 to June 2020. The meeting will end at or before 9pm. We know there's plenty to do; we need to just get the rough plans set down so St John's can help people get close to God through Jesus, the Savior we boldly and gladly proclaim!

Tree (and church) decorating: We have two lovely trees, and now we need to decorate them! The choir is in charge of decorating this year, but any and all interested parties are most welcome to come on **Wednesday at 5:30pm** to join in the fun!

Poinsettia Signup: There's a signup sheet on the back table if you are interested in providing one or more poinsettia plants to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

Giving Opportunity for Sleepy Eye Care Center: We can brighten someone's holiday at SECC with a gift! On the back table you will find a bag, and inside are plastic storage bags containing a Christmas bow and a tag with a list of gift ideas for residents. You may take a plastic bag, buy the gifts listed on the tag, wrap your gift, and put the bow and the tag on the gift (this is important). Please return it to church by December 10 so that all the gifts can be taken over to SECC. It was stressed that, if you purchase pants, they must be the type that are easy to put on and take off (i.e., elastic waist, stretchy.)

Congregational Night at MVL: Tuesday, December 11 is Congregational Night at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School. Come and support the girls' basketball teams as they play against GFW! The C squad game starts at 4:45pm, the JV at 5:45pm, and the varsity game at 7:15pm. Tickets are **free**, and you can get yours from our church/school office.

The Music Department of Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, presents their annual *Christmas at Bethany* concerts in Trinity Chapel this weekend: December 6-7 at 5pm, December 8 at 1 and 5pm, and December 9 at 3pm. Advance reservations are encouraged, especially for Saturday and Sunday, as concerts tend to fill and seating is general admission. Tickets are available now, or call Fine Arts Coordinator Susan Harstad at 507-344-7365. *Christmas at Bethany* tickets are free, with a free-will offering received during the concert.

Ladies' Advent Event: Enjoy "An Evening with Isaiah" next Sunday, December 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Nicollet. Registration will begin at 5pm and desserts will be served at 5:30pm. The opening prayer and service will begin at 6:00pm. To save your

spot, please email office@trinitynicollet.org or call 507-232-3938, ext 0. Tomorrow, December 3, is the deadline for reservations. Please leave a message if nobody answers.

Sleepy Eye Christmas Village: Spend some time with family and friends at Sleepy Eye's Christmas Village December 15th from 1pm - 8pm. Walk the Avenue of Trees, shop local vendors, and enjoy delicious snacks and sweets. The Avenue of Trees is located at 121 2nd Ave NE, and the snacks and sweets can be found at 135 and 140 West Main Street.

MVL #GivingTuesday Results: MVL's #GivingTuesday was a day to remember! The goal of \$10,000 was well exceeded, meaning MVL will receive an additional \$10,000 from Thrivent Financial. This outpouring of gifts is overwhelming and humbling. On this day and always, MVL thanks you for supporting them in their mission to train students for Christian lives!

COMING EVENTS

Sun Dec 2

- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults

Mon Dec 3

- 7:00pm Worship w/Communion
- 7:05pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- 7:45pm Spiritual growth for adults and teens

Tue Dec 4

- 8:10am Catechism class
- 6:00pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye

Wed Dec 5

- 8:10am School chapel service
- 1:30pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- 5:30pm Church Christmas decorating
- 7:00pm Choir practice
- 7:00pm Board of Ed. meeting
- 8:00pm Outreach planning meeting

Thu Dec 6

- 8:10am Catechism class
- 10:00am St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- 4:00pm Worship service at Sleepy Eye Care Center
- 6:30pm WinGS (Women in God's Service) tree decorating
- 8:00pm Elders' meeting

Fri Dec 7

- Treasure Haus Volunteering Day

Sun Dec 9

- 9:00am Worship – Theme: *Ready in Heart for Jesus*
- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults

Mon Dec 10

- 11:30am Pastoral Circuit meeting
- 7:00pm Worship
- 7:05pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- 7:45pm Spiritual growth for adults and teens

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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