



**God is Your
Brother!**

Welcome to the place of change! Here is where God admonishes the proud, soothes the hurting, awakens the dead, comforts the despairing, strengthens the weak, empowers the willing, encourages the timid, connects the disconnected, focuses the mind, and beams his smile on us all. If you're not changed today, let us know and we'll restart the service for you.

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!

Our Mission Statement

Learn, love, live for Christ!

Jesus Crushes It

When Jesus began his life here on earth, it was not like it was a piece of cake for him. Sweet and innocent in the most literal senses, yet he came to be just like us in every way – except when it comes to actually sinning. He had to be like us, experience life in this world, know what our condition feels like, and take our place in the presence of God the Father. Let's study together today why we absolutely needed him to go through the whole, dark, human experience.

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN – *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

CW 54

OPENING SENTENCES

Minister: O Lord, open my lips,

Congregation: and my mouth shall declare your praise.

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

M: Unto us the Christ is born: let us worship him.

C: ♪ Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods. The deep places of the earth are in his hand; the heights of the hills are also his.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

FIRST LESSON: Luke 4:1-13 – *The tempter tempting!*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone.’ ”

⁵The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’ ”

⁹The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹²Jesus answered, “It says: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

¹³When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

PSALM 111 – *Great are God’s works!*

found on page 106 in the front of the hymnal

SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:41-52 – *An event from his youth*

⁴¹Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. ⁴³After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.

⁴⁵When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

⁴⁹“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?” ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his

mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

CHILDREN'S LESSON

We're Related?

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!

HYMN – *O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is*

CW 40

MESSAGE

God Is Your Brother!

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.”

¹³And again,

”I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

”Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Taking the message home: _____

HYMN OF PRAISE – *Once Again My Heart Rejoices*

CW 37

OFFERING

This is a good time to sign the friendship registers. Please share as much as you would like, ask a question, indicate change in contact information, etc.

As the offering is brought forward, the congregation rises to sing hymn 43, verse 4, To Thee My Heart I Offer.

M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

C: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

PRAYER FOR GRACE AND CLOSING BLESSING

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us praise the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – *Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly*

CW 45

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Serving in God's House Today

Officiant Pastor Chris Cordes
Organist Rachel Cordes
Children's Lesson Jesse Cordes
Elder on Duty Steve Windschitl
Counters G. Schroeder/C. & R. Trebesch

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



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Bulletin Board

Bible Class Hour: Today, with no Sunday School or Bible Class, we will simply enjoy an extended fellowship hour! Head downstairs for snacks and fun conversation!

New Year’s Eve Worship: We will ring in the new year tomorrow evening with a communion service at 7pm: Theme – *Stable and Secure in the New Year*.

Next Sunday’s Worship Theme: *Epiphany - The Day the Jewish Need Expired*.

Next Sunday’s Bible Class hour will give you a chance to “Stump the Pastor”! Do you wonder about something in the Bible? Are you curious about some spiritual topic? Is there a conundrum you’d like resolved? Bring it on! See if you can stump him!

The Southwest Area Lutheran Chorale invites you to participate in their 2019 season. The first rehearsal is scheduled for Sunday, January 13th at St. John in Redwood Falls from 2-5pm. Concerts will be held on Sunday, April 7th, in Fairfax (St. John) at 2pm and St. James (St. Paul’s) at 7pm. A complete schedule will be distributed at the first rehearsal. You can also learn more by contacting Jim Renz: 507-327-7222 (director), Linette Scharlemann: 507-227-2161 (director), or Pastor Scott Muske: 507-426-7007 (pastoral advisor). New members are always welcome!

MVL Office Holiday Hours: The Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School office will be closed December 31 - January 1. The MVL faculty, staff, Board, and students wish a blessed New Year to all!

Scrip Coordinator Needed at MVL: MVL is looking for a volunteer who would be willing to help order Scrip and fill orders for families. The time commitment for this position averages out to about two hours on Monday morning and two hours on Friday morning. If you are interested in serving MVL and our Lord in this way, please contact the MVL office at 507-354-6851.

Thrivent Members and Choice Dollars®: Did you know that Thrivent Choice® provides a platform for members to have a financial impact on nonprofits like St. John's? Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Go to thrivent.com for more information.

For more spiritual growth during the week...

- Sundays, 6:30am *Time of Grace* - Channel 9 (KMSP)
- Sundays, 7:45am Lutheran Chapel Service - KNUJ radio, AM860
- Mondays, 7:05pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- Tuesdays, 6:00pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- Wednesdays, 1:30pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- Thursdays, 10:00am St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield

COMING EVENTS

Sun Dec 30

- 10:15am Fellowship Hour

Mon Dec 31

- No school - Christmas break
- **7:00pm New Year's Eve Worship w/Communion - Theme: *Stable and Secure in the New Year***

Tue Jan 1

- No school - Christmas break

Wed Jan 2

- No school - Christmas break
- 7:00pm Choir rehearsal
- 8:00pm Elders' meeting

Thu Jan 3

- Classes resume
- 8:10am Catechism class
- 4:00pm Worship service at Sleepy Eye Care Center

Fri Jan 4

- Treasure Haus Volunteering Day

Sat Jan 5

- 6:00pm Youth Group meets

Sun Jan 6

- 9:00am Worship w/Communion – Theme: *Epiphany!*
- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults!

Mon Jan 7

- 6:55am Faculty meeting
- 7:00pm Worship w/Communion
- 7:45pm Spiritual growth for adults and teens

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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