



Taking Our Blessed
Unity to Another Level

Welcome, guests! We hope that in your time here you find yourself challenged about unhealthy thinking, channeled into truth, and changed by Jesus Christ your Savior! It's what we pray God does for all of us, and we want the same benefits 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!

Taking Our Blessed Unity to Another Level

It's Unity Sunday at St. John's, and that means we are celebrating the closeness we can have as the people of God and members of this congregation. Guests today will hear what draws us together and also what we are commissioned by God to do in order to promote this unity, even when it sometimes is not easy to feel. There are challenges to unity, after all, and sometimes they come from within. So we look for some important encouragement from our Lord in Taking Our Blessed Unity to Another Level!

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN – *Glorious in Majesty*

CW 496

- 1. Glorious in majesty, holy in his praises,
Jesus, our Savior and our King.
Born a man, yet God of old, let us all adore him;
Filled with his Spirit, let us sing.**

Refrain

**Living is to love him, serving him to know his freedom.
Come along with us to join the praise of Jesus.
Come to Jesus now; go to live his Word, rejoicing.**

- 2. Victory he won for us, freeing us from darkness,
Dying and rising from the dead.
Living with the Father now, yet he is among us;
We are the body, he the head.**

Refrain

- 3. One in love, as family, living with each other,
Gladly we share each other's pain.
Yet he will not leave us so; soon he is returning,
Taking us back with him to reign.**

Refrain

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE

Minister: I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

Congregation: Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem.

M: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure.

C: May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.”

M: For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will say,

C: “Peace be within you.”

M: For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

C: I will seek your prosperity.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 45:3-8,15 – *A family reconciled*

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.”

¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

PSALMS 133-134 – *Something beautiful in the church*

Refrain: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

How good and pleasant it is*
when brothers live together in unity!

For there the LORD bestows his blessing,*
even life forevermore.

Refrain

Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD*
who minister in the house of the LORD.

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary*
and praise the LORD.

May the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON: Romans 12:14-21 – *Living in harmony*

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

CHILDREN'S LESSON

A Lesson in Your Shoe

*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 – *In Unity and Peace*

by James Chepponis

The choir will sing the first refrain, then the congregation may join on the rest of the refrains, and the choirs will sing the verses and the final line.

Refrain

***Refrain: How good it is and how pleasant to live in unity and peace.
How good it is and how pleasant to live in unity and peace.***

*In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, agree in everything you say.
May there be no divisions among you, but be united in one mind.
For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.*

Refrain

*Live a life that is worthy of your call; be humble, gentle, and patient.
Bear with each other in ways that are loving; preserve the unity of faith.
For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.*

Refrain

*Share the love that has joined us as one; unite in spirit and ideals.
Never be rivals; do not be conceited, but look to others in their need.
For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.*

Refrain

...to live together in one Lord.

MESSAGE

When Love Is Tough

Luke 6:27-38

²⁷But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even “sinners” love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even “sinners” do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even “sinners” lend to “sinners,” expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Taking the message home: _____

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod and sister denominations.

C: We rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord! Help us use them faithfully.

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your servants here and in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. Inspire us, O Jesus, to ever greater service to others as we serve you.

C: We see the opportunities you give us to share your love. Open our eyes, hearts and lips fully to them!

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to live as true children of the light. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Bless us, Lord, with a rich measure of love for you and your precious Word, that through it we keep growing in faith, love, hope, wisdom, and joy.

C: Move us to more love for each other as we carry out the work you have given us to do in unity and peace.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: Thank you for hearing and answering our prayers! Amen!

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.

CHOIR – Family of Christ

by Don Besig, Nancy Price

*This is a family of Christ where faith and love and friendship grow,
Binding our hearts as one in service to our Lord.*

*This is a family of Christ where hope and trust and kindness show,
Calling us all to come to worship him and hear his mighty Word.*

*For Christ is our foundation; on him this church will stand,
And we are his creation, our life is in his hands.
He calls us to be faithful, to hear him and obey.
We promise to be grateful and follow him each day.*

*Here in the family of Christ, where faith and love and friendship grow,
We will give thanks to the Lord and all his works proclaim.
Here in the family of Christ, where hope and trust and kindness show,
We will join hands and go forth to do God's will and praise his holy name!*

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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 – This Is My Will

CW 497

- 1. “This is my will, my one command, that love should dwell among you all.
This is my will, that you should love as I have shown that I love you.**
- 2. “No greater love can any have than that one die to save his friends.
You are my friends if you obey what I command that you should do.**
- 3. “I call you now no longer slaves; no slave knows all the master does.
I call you friends, for all I hear my Father say, you hear from me.**
- 4. “You chose not me, but I chose you, that you should go and bear much fruit.
I chose you out that you in me should bear much fruit that will abide.**
- 5. “All that you ask my Father dear for my name's sake you shall receive.
This is my will, my one command, that love should dwell in each, in all.”**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Serving in God's House Today

Officiant Pastor Chris Cordes
Organist Ronald Shilling
Lector Jesse Cordes
Elder on Duty Jerry Dittbenner
Counters J. Dallmann/D. & P. Dittbenner



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



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Bulletin Board

Right after the service we can head downstairs for delicious chili (or chicken noodle soup) and lots of fun!

Next Sunday's worship theme: *The Glory of the Real Jesus.*

Together Newsletter: You can pick up the latest edition of our synod's bi-monthly newsletter from the back table.

St. John's Night at Pizza Ranch! Tomorrow evening (February 25) you may want to visit Pizza Ranch in New Ulm between 5-8pm, when a portion of the sales as well as all tips will be donated to our school!

Members of Teams and Groups! This Wednesday (February 27) every team member – men, women, even confirmed youth group members – will be in a team-building workshop, professionally led by Rev. Don Sutton, CEO of Ministry Leadership Institute.

We'll cover:

- ◆ building a positive atmosphere in each group
- ◆ growing through positive conflict
- ◆ developing valuable commitment
- ◆ achieving results and making a difference

For all organizations, groups, boards, and committees – Maintenance, Outreach, Elders, Counters, WinGS, Serving Blocks, Worship, Choir, Ushers, Youth Group, Board of Ed., Council, Faculty and Staff, PTO, Finance – and anyone who might someday be on a team – This will benefit you and your team.

To get the most out of it, prep a little ahead of time and watch the Patrick Lencioni video, *The Five Dysfunctions of Team*, on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/T-w-iUEWlBY> It's humorous, and insightful.

For building up our God's kingdom by enabling our teams to work together with greater efficiency and better results, be ready at 6pm sharp, Wednesday, in the church fellowship area!

Women's Bible Study! Yes, the weekly sessions are starting up once again! Come to the parsonage **this Thursday** (February 28) at 6:30pm. All women, aged high school and up, are welcome to an enjoyable evening with your sisters in Christ! There will not be class the following Thursday (March 7), but the weekly schedule will continue after that.

Announcing Tentative Voters' Meeting: The steering committee assigned to bring a proposal about the future of our school is shooting for **Sunday, March 10. Please save**

that date for a possible Voters' Meeting after church. We are under a deadline with the Assignment Committee at MLC in regards to our Early Childhood Education specialist, Miss Rockhoff.

MVL Pork Chop Dinner & Winter Band Concert: Next Sunday, March 3, head over to Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School for good food and fun! The Booster Club is sponsoring a pork chop dinner, 10:30am - 1:00pm. Freewill offerings will support Booster Club projects. The annual Winter Band Concert follows at 1:30pm, featuring the Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble.

This year we can help in a special way with this event: We can **provide some desserts and some people to serve them.** If you haven't signed up yet, please do it today! You will find details and sign-up sheets on the back table. **MVL students** in particular are strongly encouraged to help out that day. Let's show our support for this wonderful blessing of Christian secondary education!

The 40th Annual Emanuel Pancake Feed: Emanuel Lutheran Church (68364 County Road 27, Fairfax) invites you to the annual Emanuel Pancake Feed on Sunday, March 3, from 10:30am - 3:30pm. Your freewill offering will supply you with all the pancakes you can eat, plus homemade sausages, desserts, and beverages. Go and enjoy great food and fellowship!

The 4th annual Men of Truth Conference, Man of God, will be held on March 23 at the Martin Luther College Auditorium, 8am-2pm. Five featured speakers will explore these topics: *Answers to Anxiety, What I Wish I Knew in My 20's-50's,* and *What Women Look for in a Man of God.* Continental breakfast and lunch are included. Register for the event at menoftruth.org. The cost is \$39 at the door, \$29 early online registration, free for middle school-college students. Questions? Send an email to contact@menoftruth.org.

Save the Date: Jeans & Dreams – Go to Turner Hall in New Ulm on Saturday, March 23, for the MVL Booster Club Auction! Wear your favorite denim and enjoy a delicious dinner, spectacular socializing with the MVL family, and an amazing array of items and experiences. Visit mvl.org/auction or Facebook for all the details!

Martin Luther College is now accepting applications for a regular part-time Administrative Assistant for the Education Office. A comprehensive description of this position can be found at mlc-wels.edu/hr. Interested individuals should apply online. Applications will be accepted through 12:00 pm (noon) on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Additional information and details can be obtained by contacting the Martin Luther College Human Resources Office at 507-354-8221.

Oberammergau Passion Play Tour: Retired WELS pastor James Humann invites you

to join him in 2020 as he hosts his sixth tour to the world-famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. The Oberammergau Passion Play depicts the life of Christ from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Two different opportunities to see the play will be offered. The first tour is an 11-day tour, June 12 - 22, 2020. It includes the Rhine Valley, Heidelberg, Rothenburg, Oberammergau and Munich, Germany, plus Lucerne, Switzerland and Paris in France.

The second 11-day tour, will be September 23 - October 3, 2020. It includes Athens and Corinth in Greece, a three day Greek Isles cruise visiting Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete and Sontorini, plus Oberammergau and Munich, Germany and Salzburg, Austria.

For the price and daily itinerary, e-mail Pastor Humann at Jhumann383@aol.com. If you would prefer a hard copy, be sure to include your name and mailing address.

Camp Shetek 2019: Camp Shetek will be held June 16-22 this summer in the Lake Shetek State Park Zuya Group Center. Campers who will be entering grades 4-9 in the 2019/20 school year are eligible to come to camp this summer. Registration forms and health forms are now available at the web site: www.campshetek.org. If you wish, you may print off these forms and mail them to: Jim Renz, 715 7th Ave. N, St. James, MN 56081 (with your deposit or camp fees paid in full.) Or, if you prefer, you may register ONLINE. If you have any questions, send an email to Jim Renz at the address listed on the form.

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 Feb 24

- 11:30am Chili Cook-off, fun and games

Mon Feb 25

- 5:00pm Pizza Ranch Tip Night
- 7:00pm No worship or Bible study on Unity Sunday weekend

Tue Feb 26

- 8:10am Catechism class
- 4:30pm Home basketball game vs. Hutchinson

Wed Feb 27

- 9:00am Newsletter assembly
- 6:00pm Team-building event!

Thu Feb 28

- 8:10am Catechism class
- 4:00pm Worship service at Sleepy Eye Care Center
- 6:30pm Women's Bible study

Fri Mar 1

- Volunteering Day at the Treasure Haus

Sat Mar 2

- Grade School Solo/Ensemble Contest at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

Sun Mar 3

- 9:00am Worship w/Communion - Theme: *The Glory of the Real Jesus*
- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults!
- 8:30am-1:00pm Volunteering at the MVL Pork Dinner

Mon Mar 4

- 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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