



# God's Surprise Mercy on the Gentiles

**Welcome, guests!** We're glad you could be with us! This church offers orientation, direction and happiness along the way. Worship services tell part of the story. If you want to learn more, try one of our Bible classes. Offered at various levels, you will find one that fits you, and then discover the difference in truth that makes a difference!

**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.

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## **God’s Surprise Mercy on the Gentiles**

*During this season of Epiphany, we’ve been looking at how many times and in how many ways the curtain was opened with Jesus at center-stage, doing everything necessary for saving all sinners, whether Jewish or Gentile. Today we note the contrast of what should be the right response to God’s kind invitation, compared to what so often was the response, especially among Jesus’ fellow Jews. Grace doesn’t pick sides – except the side of life in Jesus’ name! How does a person get on that side? Listen carefully today!*

### **PASTOR’S WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN** – *Arise and Shine in Splendor*

CW 81

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature sinful. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

M: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen!**

M: Let us pray.

*The minister says the prayer.*

**C: Amen.**

## THE WORD

**FIRST LESSON:** I Kings 17:7-16 – *A Gentile woman trusts in God*

<sup>7</sup>Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land.

<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him: <sup>9</sup>“Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.” <sup>10</sup>So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” <sup>11</sup>As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

<sup>12</sup>“As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don't have any bread – only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it – and die.”

<sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, “Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.’”

<sup>15</sup>She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. <sup>16</sup>For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

**SECOND LESSON:** Romans 10:18-11:6 – *The contrast between Jewish and Gentile faith*

<sup>18</sup>But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.” <sup>19</sup>Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, “I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding.” <sup>20</sup>And Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me.” <sup>21</sup>But concerning Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.”

<sup>11:1</sup>I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup>God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah – how he appealed to God against Israel: <sup>3</sup>“Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me”? <sup>4</sup>And what was God's answer to him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” <sup>5</sup>So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup>And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

**HYMN** – *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

CW 93

**MESSAGE**

***You Can Reject the Good News,  
but You Can't Stop It***

Luke 4:20-32

<sup>20</sup>Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, <sup>21</sup>and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

<sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn't this Joseph's son?” they asked.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

<sup>24</sup>“I tell you the truth,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup>I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup>Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon.

<sup>27</sup>And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed – only Naaman the Syrian.”

*(continued on the next page)*

<sup>28</sup>All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

<sup>31</sup>Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. <sup>32</sup>They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.

## 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 83 verse 3, As with Gladness Men of Old.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### 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 came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**C: ♪ O holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of power and might,  
Your glory, earth and heaven  
In countless ways recite.  
Hosanna! Come and save us,  
Lord God of hosts on high,  
And in your grace and mercy  
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!  
How truly blest is he  
Who in God's name is coming  
To set his people free!  
He comes to bring salvation  
And with his blood outpoured,  
Deliver us from bondage -  
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

## **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.**

## 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.**

♪ **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION

*During the distribution the congregation may sing the following hymns:*

357 - *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

349 - *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

## THANKSGIVING

1. ♪ **O Lord, now let your servant  
Depart in peace, assured:  
For I have seen your promised  
Incarnate, saving Word -  
A Light that will enlighten  
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;  
The brilliant, crowning glory  
Of those in Israel!**

2. **All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever three in one;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift and all your Gospel messages today you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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 – *O Jesus, King of Glory*

CW 94, verses 1,4, and 5

**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!*

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*Serving in God's House Today*

**Officiant** ..... Professor Brian Dose  
**Organist** ..... Rachel Cordes  
**Lector/Elder on Duty** ..... Jerry Dittbenner  
**Counters** ..... G. Schroeder/C. & R. Trebesch



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



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## **Bulletin Board**

**Special thanks to Rev. Brian Dose** for leading us in worship and Bible study today! Professor Dose serves our Lord and us at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, where he teaches English to students preparing for teaching and preaching ministries in the WELS.

**Next Sunday** we'll have a representative with us from our WELS high school to the west, Great Plains Lutheran. As a boarding school nearby, it offers a nice alternative in the need for solid, Christian education for teens.

**Musical at Bethany Lutheran College:** There are three more performances of *Kiss Me, Kate*, starring our member, Tony Cordes, at the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center on the campus in Mankato: February 8 and 9 at 7:30pm and February 9 at 2:00pm. Tickets are available through the website (blc.edu) or by calling the box office, 507-344-7374, between the hours of 1-5pm, Monday-Friday.

**15 Days of Prayer** starts this Tuesday! February 5 marks the beginning of China's New Year and Spring Festival celebration. These 15 days are the most significant of China's holiday. 316NOW suggests we use these days to ask the Holy Spirit to bring the gospel to millions more in China and to strengthen the faith of Chinese Christians. We will pray for the souls in China during our next worship services. We also encourage every member to pray daily. *Prayer guides for personal and family use are available on the back table!*

**WinGS Meeting:** Women in God's Service will be meeting Tuesday evening (February 5) at 6:30 pm to lay the groundwork for this year's activities and services. The next activity to finish planning is the **Unity Sunday Chili Contest**. All women are welcome!

**2019 Tax Reform Workshop:** St. John in Redwood Falls is hosting a workshop giving a brief overview of 2019 tax reform and practical planning information for families and businesses. *The date has been changed:* next Sunday, February 10, with a light meal and refreshments at 5:00pm, followed by the presentation at 6:00pm, held in their fellowship hall. Pre-registration is requested. Please register online at [www.stjohnredwood.org](http://www.stjohnredwood.org) or call Carrie Werner at 507-637-2035.

**Faithful Financial Fulfillment Seminar at MVL:** You're invited to an enlightening and inspiring seminar on February 10 at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School. Discover how you can find faithful financial fulfillment wherever God has placed you! This complimentary seminar is sponsored by the MVL Foundation. Visit [mvl.org/campus-events](http://mvl.org/campus-events) for details about the evening's agenda and speakers, and to RSVP.

**The Martin Luther College Wind Symphony** together with members of the **Wisconsin Luther College Band** will present *Whatsoever Things: A Sacred Concert for Wind Band*

on Sunday, February 17th at 3:00 PM in the Chapel of the Christ. Works on the program include *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* by Claude T. Smith; *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* by Anthony La Bounty, based on an English hymn tune; *Cathedrals* by Kathryn Salfelder, a uniquely antiphonal work inspired by the compositions of Gabrieli; and *Whatsoever Things* by Mark Camphouse. The Martin Luther College Chorale, Männerchor, and Women's choirs will also join in on a setting of *The King of Love my Shepherd Is*. The finale of the concert will be a joint performance of *With Heart and Voice* by David Gillingham. All are welcome for this concert of praise!

**Our first ever Chili Contest** will be held Sunday, February 24th, in conjunction with Unity Sunday celebration! Everyone is invited to bring their favorite recipe in a crockpot. You will name your entry, and those who sample the entries will be the judges. Chicken noodle soup will be available for those who don't care for chili.

Please help to provide all the other items needed to make this contest a success by using the following: [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054CA8AB2DA0FF2-chili](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054CA8AB2DA0FF2-chili)

For those who are unable or would prefer not to visit a website, you will find sign-up sheets in the narthex.

**Real Life Lessons:** Everyone is invited to Zion Lutheran Church in Morgan for their next *Real Life Lessons*, February 24 from 5-7:30 pm. The topic is *Christian Marriage: Is Your Marriage Surviving or Thriving?* with President Mark Zarling from Martin Luther College. Dinner is provided for the whole family. The children will have a drive-in cardboard box movie night after dinner. Decorate your box at home and bring it ready with a pillow and a blanket for the movie. RSVP to [ZionThroughChrist@gmail.com](mailto:ZionThroughChrist@gmail.com), 507-249-3133 or find the event on Facebook.

**Martin Luther College is now accepting applications** for a Temporary/Summer Paint Crew Lead. A comprehensive description of this position can be found at [mlc-wels.edu/hr](http://mlc-wels.edu/hr). Interested individuals should apply online. Applications will be accepted through 12:00 pm (noon) on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. Additional information and details can be obtained by contacting the Martin Luther College Human Resources Office at 507-354-8221.

**Position available: Office Manager at the Treasure Haus** – The Treasure Haus is a faith-based, non-profit resale shop in New Ulm with the mission of raising money for Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School and other WELS/ELS ministries. They are looking for someone to fill the position of Office Manager. Duties include website management, social media presence, purchasing, maintaining files, and generating reports. Ability to organize is important, as is a heart for ministry. Ten to fifteen flexible hours a week. Training provided. Salary dependent on experience and qualifications. Stop by the Treasure Haus for an application, or call (507) 354-6108.

**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.

**Update from the Lutheran Military Support Group:** Pastor Paul Ziemer writes: “Izak (Ike) Jirik is a student in the PTSD course I am teaching. He is also a chaplain’s assistant (they have a new title now, but I don’t recall it off-hand). He is in the Minnesota National Guard, which will deploy in October. He reports that his superior officers are very impressed with our Spiritual Deployment Kit (SDK) and the *God Our Refuge* devotional book. As a result, they want us to send them 150 SDK’s and 300 of the new military devotional handbooks as soon as they are available.

“It is good to know that the quality of our publications is recognized by others. It surely should encourage us to pursue this project to its completion. It surely should encourage us to thank our Lord for the opportunity to bring his Word of peace to those who prepare for war.”

### **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 3

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

### Mon Feb 4

- 7:00pm Worship w/Communion
- 7:45pm Spiritual growth for adults and teens!

### Tue Feb 5

- Pastor's vacation week begins
- 8:10am Catechism class
- 4:30pm Basketball home game vs. Hutchinson
- 6:30pm WinGS (Women in God's Service) meeting
- 8:00pm Elders' meeting

### Wed Feb 6

- 8:10am School chapel service
- 7:00pm Choir rehearsal
- 7:00pm Board of Education meeting

### Thu Feb 7

- 8:10am No Catechism class
- 4:00pm Worship service at Sleepy Eye Care Center
- 4:00pm Basketball home game vs. Nicollet

### Sat Feb 9

- Basketball tournament at Hutchinson

### Sun Feb 10

- 9:00am Worship - Theme: *All You Can Be?*
- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults!

### Mon Feb 11

- 7:00pm Worship
- 7:45pm Spiritual growth for adults and teens!

## St. John's Lutheran Church and School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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