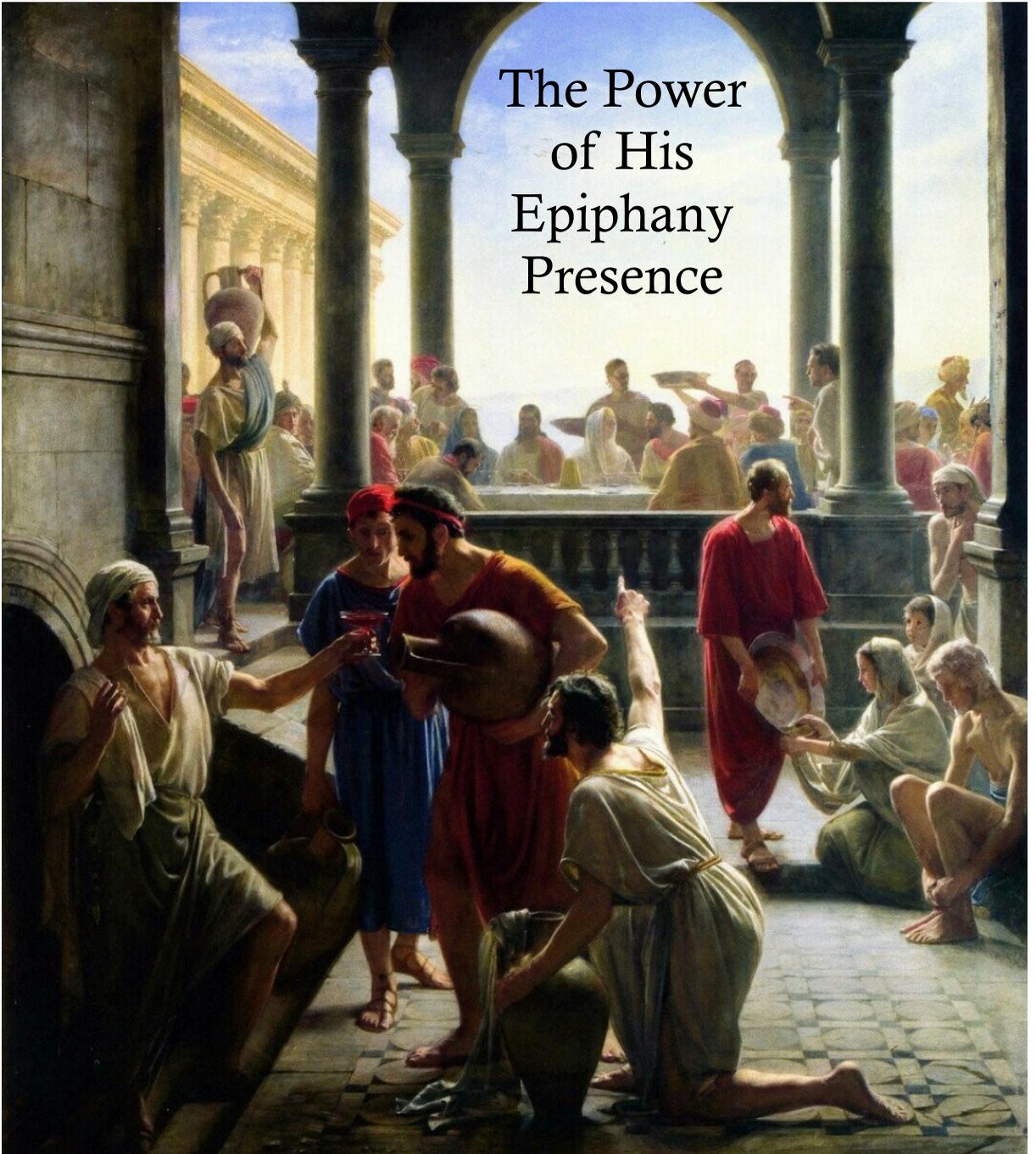


The Power
of His
Epiphany
Presence



Welcome, guests! If our form of worship seems unfamiliar, that's okay. If it feels like you're joining a conversation already in progress, you are! In a way the family of God has been visiting with him for centuries, and the style of conversation has developed over time. But after a short time of listening and observing, you'll find yourself caught up and participating in this long-felt joy of conversation between God and his dearly loved people.

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.

The Power of His Epiphany Presence

This Epiphany season helps us focus on the rich blessings we have since Christ is revealed as the Savior of us Gentiles too. We especially celebrate the power of his presence in our lives, a power that some have tried to imitate over the centuries, but without the results Jesus brings when he is in our lives as our true Savior and King. In our service today, we especially see how the family benefits!

PASTOR’S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN – *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

CW 82

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

Congregation: Amen!

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment, both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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 85, verse 1

**C: ♪ O God from God, O Light from Light, O Prince of Peace and King of kings,
To you in heaven's glory bright the song of praise forever rings.
To him who sits upon the throne, the Lamb once slain but raised again,
Be all the glory he has won, all thanks and praise! Amen, Amen!**

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: Exodus 7:14-24 – *Imitators that failed*

¹⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. ¹⁵Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the water. Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. ¹⁶Then say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert. But until now you have not listened. ¹⁷This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. ¹⁸The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’ ”

¹⁹The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt – over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs’ – and they will turn to blood. Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in the wooden buckets and stone jars.”

²⁰Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. ²¹The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

²²But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. ²³Instead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart. ²⁴And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water, because they could not drink the water of the river.

PSALMS 133-134 – *Where happiness happens*

page 115 in the front of the hymnal

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 3:14-21 – *Epiphany Prayer*

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

(continued on the next page)

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

CHILDREN’S LESSON The Magicians’ Epic Fail

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 – *I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus*

CW 446

MESSAGE *The Miracle at a Marriage*

John 2:1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”

⁴“Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.”

⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

¹¹This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

Taking the message home: _____

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

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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

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

DISTRIBUTION

The choir will sing Come Receive God's Blessing by Don Besig and Nancy Price, after which the congregation may sing hymn 315, Here, O My Lord, I See Your Face to Face.

THANKSGIVING

C: ♪ **In peace, Lord, you let your servant now depart according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for every people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory, the glory of your people Israel.**

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 – *Lord, Who at Cana's Wedding-Feast*

TLH 620

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 Laurie Silfies
Lector Steve Windschitl
Elder on Duty David Silfies
Counters J. Dallmann/D. & P. Dittbenner



Special Prayers List: Chary Heideman; SueAnn Hinderman and Family; Al Maasz; Konner Mathiowetz; Peyton Moldan; George Piotter; James Piotter Family; Lorelei Tauer; William Trebesch



Acknowledgements: All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, NIV. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc. Hymns and worship sourced from *Christian Worship: Hymnal*, —*New Service Settings*, and —*Supplement*, 1993, 2002, 2008 respectively, by Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission and OneLicense.net License #A-7 15805 and/or CCLI License #11281329. Used by permission under Creative Commons license for non-commercial, no derivatives, attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0>)



Bulletin Board

Congregational/Voters’ Meeting: After church, all members of St. John’s are urged to attend the one-topic congregational meeting, to discuss the recommendation to call another principal to replace Mr. Rick, who has accepted a call to Wisconsin. Small-group discussions are anticipated, allowing more members to express opinions and share ideas more easily.

Here are some guidelines we will follow:

- We will be respectful of other’s opinions.
- Be looking for what will best help God's kingdom plans for human souls and give him glory.

- Everyone can speak or pass as they are invited to share their thoughts.
- All thoughts and ideas will be recorded.

Afterwards, we'll enjoy a potluck dinner and sweet fellowship as God's people who serve him.

Special second opportunity to help with the Vietnam mission offering! Donate in the colorful boxes in/near the narthex. After this you are welcome to make additional donations at wels.net/vietnamhmongoutreach. May our God bless the special endeavor for his gospel and kingdom!

Next Sunday's Worship Theme: *A Message to Move You.*

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

Free MLC Basketball Games this Wednesday! Our Parent/Teacher Organization is covering the cost of tickets for the games this Wednesday (January 23) at Martin Luther College! The MLC women's game starts at 5:30pm, followed by the men at 7:15pm. They'll be playing the teams from Bethany Lutheran College. There's a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the entry-way of the school. The deadline for signing up for free tickets is this Tuesday at 11:30am. Questions? Mr. Rick will be happy to answer them!

Summit Avenue Music Series presents the world-renowned string quartet, Pro Arte, next Sunday, January 27, 3:00pm, in MLC's Chapel of the Christ. For more information, visit summitavenuemusic.com.

15 Days of Prayer: Beginning on February 5, 2019, China's New Year and Spring Festival celebration will take place. These 15 days mark 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!

316NOW is a para-synodical group that is bringing the gospel to China by providing biblical instruction to the Christian leaders there. As these leaders grow in understanding of God's Word, they are better equipped to train members of their congregations to share Jesus with others. 316NOW works with the other groups associated with our synod to share the gospel in China. For more information go to 316NOW.org.

Musical at Bethany Lutheran College: Kiss Me, Kate, starring our member, Tony Cordes, will be performed at the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center on the campus in Mankato. The six performances are on February 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 7:30pm and on February 3 and 9 at 2:00pm. Tickets are now on sale through the website (blc.edu) or by calling the box office, 507-344-7374, between the hours of 1-5pm, Monday-Friday. **Content Advisory:** Kiss Me, Kate contains some PG/PG-13 language and content that may not be appropriate for younger viewers.

Faithful Financial Fulfillment Seminar at MVL: You're invited to an enlightening and inspir-

ing 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 for details about the evening's agenda and speakers, and to RSVP.

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.

2019 Christian Leadership Experience: Hosted by the Antioch Foundation, this conference, March 15-16 in La Crosse, will be enlightening and inspiring. **The early bird deadline has been extended to February 15.** Go to www.christlead.com for all the event details and registration information.

Adult Grief Support: Redwood Area Hospital is once again holding support group sessions. The group will meet on Mondays, February 4 - March 11, from 2-4pm in the hospital's education room. There is no cost to participate. It is important that participants attend all six sessions if possible. For more information or to register, please call Chelsey Gniffke at the Carris Health-Redwood Hospital at 507-637-4617.

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 Jan 20

- 10:15am Quarterly Congregational Meeting
- 10:15am Sunday School for kids
- 11:30am Potluck dinner!

Mon Jan 21

- **Newsletter Deadline**
- No school
- 7:00pm Worship w/Communion
- 7:45pm No Bible study this evening

Tue Jan 22

- 8:10am Catechism class

Wed Jan 23

- 5:30pm MLC Fun Night
- 7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Thu Jan 24

- 8:10am Catechism class
- 4:00pm Worship service at Sleepy

Eye Care Center

- 4:00pm Home basketball game vs. Fairfax

Sun Jan 27

- 9:00am Worship – Theme: *A Message to Move You*
- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults!

Mon Jan 28

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

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

221 Walnut Street SE • 216 3rd Ave SE

Sleepy Eye, Minnesota 56085

www.stjohnsse.com

Rev. Chris Cordes, Pastor ~ Mr. Daniel Rick, Principal

507-766-7983

920-312-3829

pastorcordes@gmail.com

danrick07@gmail.com

Church and School Office: (507) 794-6200

office@stjohnsse.com

