



A Message  
to  
Move You

**Be welcome here!** May you find what is most important, and may life change for the better for you! God has answers for life's most intriguing questions. They come with exploring his word, the Bible.

First and foremost, discover and celebrate Christ Jesus with us!

**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!

**Our Mission Statement**

*Learn, love, live for Christ!*

# A Message to Move You

*Some folks get kind of stubborn about the Bible and don't want anything to do with it. Then there are people who can't get enough of it, who see truths and philosophies and values in it that shape their lives so positively, they just want more and more of it and they are not satisfied without it. Sometimes they even cry when they hear it. What about you? How do you feel about the Bible? What does it do in you? Ponder the power and positive force through our service today, entitled A Message to Move You.*

## PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN – *Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening*

CW 283

## 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: The glory of Christ is revealed: 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:** Acts 4:23-31 – *The living message*

<sup>23</sup>On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup>When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup>You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“ ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.’

<sup>27</sup>Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup>They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. <sup>29</sup>Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. <sup>30</sup>Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

<sup>31</sup>After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

**SECOND LESSON:** Luke 4:14-21 – *Not some distant, far off message!*

<sup>14</sup>Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup>He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup>He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

<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.”

## CHILDREN'S SONG – *How Precious Is the Book Divine*

*How precious is the Book divine, by inspiration given!  
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine to guide our souls to heaven.*

*Its light, descending from above our gloomy world to cheer,  
Displays a Savior's boundless love and brings his glories near.*

*It shows to us our wandering ways and where our feet have trod  
But brings to view the matchless grace of a forgiving God.*

*This lamp through all the dreary night of life shall guide our way  
Till we behold the clearer light of an eternal day.*

## CHILDREN'S LESSON: **This Is How You Read the Bible Before You Know How to Read**

*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 – *God Has Spoken by His Prophets*

CW 281

## MESSAGE

### ***The Day They Cried Over the Bible***

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

<sup>2</sup>So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. <sup>3</sup>He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

<sup>5</sup>Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. <sup>6</sup>Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

<sup>8</sup>They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

<sup>9</sup>Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were

instructing the people said to them all, “This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

<sup>10</sup>Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

## Background

history:

586 BC –

539 BC –

516 BC –

446 BC –

Nehemiah –

446 BC –

\_\_\_\_\_ BC – completed walls

7<sup>th</sup> month -

## Important details

location:

assembly: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ “others who could understand”: \_\_\_\_\_

how long?

explanations:

## Why Weep?

1-

2 -

God wanted them to \_\_\_\_\_ !

*(continued on the next page)*

Take home? I want to \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.
2. Take your stand in:
3. Recognize:
4. Take \_\_\_\_\_

Private opportunities

Public opportunities

Personal/family resources:

Through my Bible in three years: stjohnsse.com → Church → Grow in God's Word

Links: "Daily Devotions," "Time of Grace"

For your little ones (because you are the primary teachers): *The Story Bible* (CPH)

Personal listening device:

cell phone app

Faithcomesbyhearing.com => audio-bibles => store: "Bible sticks," MP3's, SD cards

**HYMN OF PRAISE** – *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

CW 278

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

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.**

**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** ..... Pastor Chris Cordes  
**Organist** ..... Ron Shilling  
**Lector** ..... Jesse Cordes  
**Children’s Lesson** ..... Principal Daniel Rick  
**Elder on Duty** ..... Steve Windschitl  
**Counters** ..... D. Guhlke/N. Houldson/C. Leopold



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



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## Bulletin Board

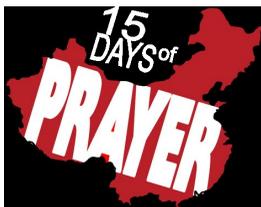
**Important Congregational Meeting after the Service!** Again for our Bible class hour this week we gather as a congregation to give additional input about the future of our school. Does it hold an important place in the ministries we believe God wants us to offer here? Since this is not an easy decision, we want to gather the advice of all, men and women, young and old. We'll hear the compilation of input from last week's small groups, react to it, and share thoughts that have developed during the week. This is a process, and it is right that everyone has a place in it.

**Next Sunday's Worship Theme:** *God's Surprise Mercy on the Gentiles.*

**We're live!** Yes, alive in Jesus, of course, but also finally able to share his messages live on Sunday mornings! We've finally worked the kinks out, purchased and installed the right equipment, and launched live-streaming on Sunday mornings again! To access the live stream on Sunday mornings (9:00am), go to [www.stjohnsse.com](http://www.stjohnsse.com), click on Live Video, and then click on the sideways triangle play button. Notice you can download a copy of the bulletin for the day.

**Summit Avenue Music Series** presents the world-renowned string quartet, Pro Arte, **this afternoon** at 3:00pm in the Chapel of the Christ at Martin Luther College. For more information, visit [summitavenuemusic.com](http://summitavenuemusic.com).

**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 this weekend and the following weekend, 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](http://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.



**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](http://316NOW.org).

**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:* 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.

**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](http://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.

**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.

**Jesus Cares Ministries, \$25,000 Matching Grant:** A generous friend of Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM), a WELS organization focused on reaching out to those with developmental disabilities, has again offered a \$25,000 matching grant at the beginning of this year. If you feel particularly moved to give to a special cause, now is the perfect time to give to JCM. Whatever is given to JCM in this first portion of the year will be matched up to \$25,000. Those who are interested should visit [tlha.org/donate](http://tlha.org/donate).

**Trip to the Passion Play in Oberammergau:** 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. This afternoon- and evening-long performance is presented only once every ten years, in keeping with a promise the people of Oberammergau made in 1634 AD during the Black Plague.

Two different opportunities to see the Oberammergau Passion Play will be offered. The first tour is an eleven-day tour, June 12 - 22, 2020. It includes the Rhine Valley, Heidelberg, Rothenburg, Oberammergau and Munich in Germany, plus Lucerne in Switzerland and Paris in France.

The second tour is an eleven-day tour, 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 in Germany and Salzburg in Austria.

The Passion Play in Oberammergau is very popular and sells out quickly. For the price and daily itinerary, e-mail Pastor Humann at [Jhumann383@aol.com](mailto:Jhumann383@aol.com). If you would prefer a hard copy, be sure to include your name and mailing address.

### **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 27

- 9:00am Worship – Theme: *A Message to Move You*
- 10:15am Important congregational meeting!
- 10:15am Sunday school for kids

### Mon Jan 28

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

### Tue Jan 29

- Pastor's planning week begins
- 8:10am Catechism class
- 4:00pm Basketball game at Arlington

### Wed Jan 30

- 9:00am Newsletter assembly
- 7:00pm Choir rehearsal

### Thu Jan 31

- 8:10am No Catechism class
- 4:00pm Worship service at Sleepy Eye Care Center
- 4:00pm Two basketball games at Redwood Falls

### Fri Feb 1

- Treasure Haus volunteering day

### Sun Feb 3

- 9:00am Worship w/Communion - Theme: *God's Surprise Mercy on the Gentiles.*
- 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!

## St. John's Lutheran Church and School

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