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**Welcome to God's house**, where he teaches us his ways so we may walk in his paths! This has been the expressed joy of his followers throughout the ages, and we're glad you have the opportunity to join in the joy. If you're looking for a church home, be sure to indicate so in the red Friendship Register in your pew during the service.

**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!
- **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 after the announcements where the fun begins in a topic focused on growing your lifestyle and character.
- 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!*

- **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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## **Epiphany!**

*It’s “Epiphany” today! That word, from a Greek vocable, means “reveal” and expresses the fact that there came a point in history in which the newborn Savior was revealed as more than the Savior of just the Jews. We see God’s broad plan of rescue actually enveloping all the nations of the world and inviting us to join them in praising him as our Savior, whether we are Jewish or Gentile.*

### **PASTOR’S WELCOME**

### **OPENING HYMN – *Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal***

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

**Congregation: And also with you!**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**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: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

CW 41, verses 1 and 6

**C: ♪ Let all together praise our God before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again and gives us his own Son,  
And gives us his own Son.**

**For us he opens wide the door of paradise today.  
The angels guard the gate no more; to God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

*The minister says the prayer.*

**C: Amen.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 10:1-9 – *The Queen of Sheba*

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. <sup>2</sup>Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan – with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones – she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. <sup>3</sup>Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. <sup>4</sup>When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, <sup>5</sup>the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

<sup>6</sup>She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. <sup>7</sup>But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. <sup>8</sup>How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! <sup>9</sup>Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness.”

PSALM 72 – *Praised by all*

page 93 in the front of the hymnal

### SECOND LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12 – *The Magi from the East*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for

the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route .

## CHILDREN’S LESSON      **They Came from Where?**

*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 – *The Star Proclaims the King Is Here*

CW 91

## MESSAGE      ***The Day the Jewish Need Expired***

Ephesians 3:2-12

<sup>2</sup>Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup>In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup>according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

*Taking the message home:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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**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, verses 1-3, 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 right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

CW p. 34

## 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.**



**DISTRIBUTION**

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

*CW 79 - How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

*CW 86 - The Only Son from Heaven*

**THANKSGIVING**

**THANK THE LORD**

CW p.36

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood – and in all your gospel messages today – the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

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.

**CLOSING HYMN – *Hail, O Source of Every Blessing***

CW 87

**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** ..... Ron Shilling  
**Lector/Elder on Duty** ..... Jerry Dittbenner  
**Counters** ..... D. Guhlke/S. & S. Hinderman



**Special Prayers List:** Chary Heideman; Al Maasz; Konner Mathiowetz; Peyton Moldan;  
George Piotter; 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](http://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**

**Bible Class:** “Stump the Pastor” – Got a burning question? Curious about something in the Bible? Bring it on, see if you can stump him!

**Next week’s worship theme:** *The Baptism of Jesus Still Energizes Ministry.*

**Important Congregation/Voters’ Meeting, January 20:** All members are encouraged to attend for the sake of clear and open discussion. The meeting will be limited to one item, the recommendations of the Board of Education and the Council to call a new principal to replace Mr. Rick, who has accepted a call to Wisconsin. A warm fellowship potluck will follow!

**The Southwest Area Lutheran Choral** 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!

**Thrivent Savvy Social Security Workshops:** January 14th at Redeemer Lutheran Church in New Ulm, 5:00pm and 7:00pm; or January 15th at Gibbon Community Center, 5:00pm and 7:00pm. At these workshops, you will learn about when to take out social security, how to maximize your benefits, and overall retirement planning. Please call them at 507-354-4413 to RSVP. (No products are being sold at this event.)

**Scrip Coordinator Needed at MVL:** Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School 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.

**MVL Anniversary Shirts:** MVL still has anniversary t-shirts available for purchase, \$10 for adults (S-3XL) and \$7 for youth (S-XL). Limited quantities in certain colors and sizes, so order yours soon! Contact Kristin Matzke at [kmatzke@mvlhs.org](mailto:kmatzke@mvlhs.org) or 507.233.8662.

### **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 6

- 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

### Tue Jan 8

- 8:10am Catechism class

### Wed Jan 9

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

### Thu Jan 10

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

### Fri Jan 11

- 1:00pm Early dismissal
- 3:30pm Basketball away game @ Marshall

### Sat Jan 12

- 3:30pm Fun Night at MSU - Taylor Center

### Sun Jan 13

- 9:00am Worship – Theme: *The Baptism of Jesus Still Energizes Ministry*
- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults!

### Mon Jan 14

- 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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