

# CONTINUE IN MY WORD

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## 1918-2018

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Celebrating 100 years  
of God's grace in the  
Minnesota District of  
the WELS

If you hold  
to my  
teaching,  
you are  
really my  
disciples.  
Then you  
will know  
the truth,  
and the truth  
will set you  
free.

John 8:31-32



**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.** The connection between yourself and Christ gets closer and stronger with more listening to his word, the Bible. And the connection with his people grows also as we experience his truth and love together, extending his peace in our relationships.
- **Sign up for The Four Key Concepts.** This short course gives you the very basics for a good relationship with God. If you know anything from the Bible, know these four keys! Then the rest of the Bible starts to open up for you.
- **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, so you can rejoin the assembly in worship. Children's worship bags are available for small children during the service. Find them next to the upper elevator door.
- **Offerings:** Our offerings make it possible to run the programs and ministries of our church, participating with the Lord our God in his kingdom plans and expansion. Each member is taught to make his own decision what to give, based on the simple principles of giving first to God, generously and with a heart of trust. 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!*

# Celebrating Our Minnesota District Anniversary!

*Today's worship takes us back in time 100 years to the founding of an important confederation of churches, a congealing of disparate congregations into one organization, with one Lord, one faith, one purpose. We praise our God for 100 years as the Minnesota District of the Wisconsin Synod.*

## PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN – *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

CW 234

- 1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**  
**O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!**  
**Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,**  
**Joining in glad adoration!**
- 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning**  
**And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.**  
**Have you not seen all that is needful has been**  
**Sent by his gracious ordaining?**
- 3. Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,**  
**Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.**  
**What need or grief ever has failed of relief!**  
**Wings of his mercy did shade you.**
- 5. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!**  
**All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!**  
**Let the Amen sound from his people again;**  
**Gladly forever adore him!**

## INVOCATION

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

## DIALOGUE OF PROMISES

M: Gracious Father, for centuries you promised a Savior who would crush the head of Satan. You revived Adam and Eve with this promise. You uttered it again to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You announced it from the mountaintops through your prophets Moses, Isaiah, David, and others. When your time was right, you fulfilled your promise through your Son, Jesus Christ. We stand here today as spiritual benefactors of the forgiveness you promised and accomplished through Christ.

**C: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!**

M: Almighty God, together with your Son you promised to send the Holy Spirit – the comforter and counselor. On Pentecost you vividly displayed the keeping of that promise. Today you continue to keep this promise as you send your Holy Spirit to our hearts to do his work through Word and Sacraments administered in and through this congregation and throughout this Minnesota District.

**C: The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice!**

M: Eternal God, we are attacked on every side: Our flesh tempts us from within, the world tempts us from without, and the Devil schemes with both. We have come to realize that we cannot rely on the things of this world for lasting security against their assaults. We would fall into despair if not for your promise that your Word will last forever. We, therefore, rely on your Word. It is our strength as we face the challenges of being twenty-first century confessional Lutherans.

**C: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble!**

M: Merciful Lord, when your Church has struggled, your grace has prevailed, always leaving a remnant sheltered by your love. You even use those times to draw us closer to you.

**C: Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world!**

M: Let this be the time, O Lord, when you renew us again by Word and Sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service to you. Grant in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of the fathers of our churches in the past.

**C: May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us!**

M: Let this be a time, O Lord, of confession and repentance. For Jesus' sake forgive us whenever we have loved ourselves more than you and served ourselves first, ahead of others. Forgive us for any apathy, a cursed attitude that harms our faith and hinders our work. Rid us of any indifference for public worship and slothfulness in spiritual

growth. Destroy every thought that harms the unity of the Spirit and the bond of our peace.

**C: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.**

## ASSURANCE AND PEACE

**M:** Our Lord has indeed forgiven all your sins, drawing you close through Jesus your Savior, setting up his dwelling within us, and empowering us to live for him! Be at peace and find strength in your Savior's grace!

**C: Amen – so it is and shall be for us his people!**

## THE WORDS OF OUR GOD

### FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 4:1-10

Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

<sup>3</sup>You saw with your own eyes what the LORD did at Baal Peor. The LORD your God destroyed from among you everyone who followed the Baal of Peor, <sup>4</sup>but all of you who held fast to the LORD your God are still alive today.

<sup>5</sup>See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>6</sup>Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” <sup>7</sup>What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. <sup>10</sup>Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.”

## PSALM 78

### *Refrain*

O my people, hear my teaching;  
listen to the words of my mouth.

I will utter things from of old,  
what we have heard and what our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from our children;  
we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD.

### *Refrain*

The LORD decreed statutes for Jacob  
and established the law in Israel,

so the next generation would know them,  
and they in turn would tell their children.

Then they would put their trust in God  
and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

### *Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### THIRD LESSON: John 15:1-17

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

### HYMN – *O Word of God Incarnate*

CW 279

- 1. O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky,  
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**
- 2. The Church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine,  
And still that light is lifted o’er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass that, all life’s journey through,  
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.**
- 3. Oh, make your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold  
To bear before the nations your true light, as of old.  
Oh, teach your wand’ring pilgrims by this their path to trace  
Till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.**

## MESSAGE

## *Continuing*

John 8:31-32

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

The Past

The Present

The Future

## 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.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Gracious Lord God, as we pause this day to recall your blessings to our District, we are filled with humble gratitude:

**C: We give thanks to your gracious name!**

M: Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, you freed us from the guilt of sin, the fear of death, and the slavery of Satan.

**C: Help us to always trust in Jesus as our only Savior from sin and hope of heaven.**

M: You have given us your Word so that we might know you as a loving God and know for certain we will live in your love eternally.

**C: Help us to faithfully hold to your truth and to freely share that truth with others.**

M: You have given us your sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, to create and strengthen faith in our hearts and assure us that our sins are forgiven – fully, freely, and forever.

**C: We treasure these gifts! Help us use them often!**

M: You have given us faithful pastors, school teachers, and Sunday School teachers to impart your Word of promise.

**C: We honor them as your representatives.**

M: You have given us numerous opportunities to grow in our Christian faith and life through Sunday School, Lutheran elementary school, Lutheran high school, youth and adult Bible studies, personal reading and family devotions.

**C: Help us to show our appreciation by making good use of them, for ourselves, our children, and others.**

M: You have given us dedicated organists, choir members, councilmen, organizational leaders, and countless volunteers who have given of their time and talents to serve your kingdom.

**C: Help us to want, not so much to be served, as to serve and to give ourselves to your glory.**

M: For 100 years you have given us the privilege of sharing your gospel in the various communities of our Minnesota District:

**C: Until we are privilege to join all the saints who from their labors rest, help us as individuals, families, and congregations to do all we can to share your Word of salvation!**

M: Lord, we pray as your Son taught us:

**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.**

## 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.*

### 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.**

### DISTRIBUTION

*During the distribution, the congregation may sing hymn 312, Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared.*

## THANKSGIVING

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper and with all the gospel messages today. We pray that through them you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### JOY OF BLESSING IN HIS KINGDOM

M: Gracious God, thank you for your unbounded mercy in Jesus our Savior! We praise you for your rich forgiveness and life. We are grateful to stand before you as your holy people.

**C: We now recommit ourselves, O Lord, to the ministry of your Son's gospel. Increase in us love for you, zeal for your name, and generosity toward your kingdom. Bless us also, if it is your will, with visible success in our labors.**

M: Make us a people of faith and joy, bold to ask amazing blessings and excited to anticipate them from your willing hand. We are here to take up the trumpet none can silence or mistake, to proclaim for all the world to hear: The feast is ready! Come to the feast! Learn, love, live for Christ!

**C: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations!**

CLOSING HYMN – *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

CW 293

**God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, immediately following the service, our Building Research Team has asked our architect, Mr. Eric Oleson, to present the team's proposed answer to the building needs of our ministries. You are encouraged to stay where you are, as the presentation will begin promptly after announcements!

**Special Offering:** In celebration of the Minnesota District anniversary, if you wish to give an offering, it is suggested that you make checks payable to the Minnesota District Scholarship Fund. This fund supports students studying at Martin Luther College for the ministry of God's Word.

**Next Sunday:** *Soccer Camp Finale!* Soccer Camp kicks off tomorrow, and we'll finish the week with our worship service at Sportsmen's Park which will begin at **10:30am** next Sunday. Following the service we'll have a potluck picnic, so bring your favorite dish to share! Remember, Block 3 is serving for the potluck.

**In two Sundays we'll start a new message series** that will take us through the entire book of 1 Corinthians! Start reading ahead and get ready to make the most of your learning.

**Free concert in our park at the end of Soccer Camp!** Branches Band will provide a mix of secular and religious music to delight the soul this Friday, June 8, at 6:00pm. And it's free! We, of course, want to show our thanks and support their travel and music. Can you give a little for their freewill offering today? (Freewill offerings in open park settings don't work as well.) They need to be supported. Use the basket by the door!

**Concessions at Prairieview Park:** Just a reminder of the standing invitation to help sell concessions. Check out the signup sheet!

**Choir Practice Wednesday:** This is just a reminder that there is one more rehearsal to prepare the song for next Sunday's service in the park. It's this Wednesday at 7:00pm.

**Home Cemetery** has asked that all flowers be removed by **June 9**.

**District Convention Choir:** As in the past, a choir made up of area singers has been asked to sing in the opening service of the district convention at MLC. The service is Tuesday, June 12 at 9:00am in Chapel of the Christ. There will be just two rehearsals: Sunday, June 10 at 7pm and Tuesday, June 12 at 7:30am, both in the Chapel of the Christ. Music will be distributed at the rehearsals. Please contact Bethel Boeder if you would like to sing in the choir, so that she knows about how many singers there will be and how much music will be needed. She can be reached at boederbj@mlc-wels.edu or 507-217-0182.

**Trinity Lutheran School Anniversary:** Our sister school in Nicollet will be celebrating 150 years of God's grace on Sunday, June 17. There will be a worship service at 9:00am,

followed by a program and dinner. If you plan to attend, please respond by June 9. You may email them at: [office@trinitynicollet.org](mailto:office@trinitynicollet.org) or call: 507-232-3938 ext. 0.

**Women's Bible Study/Picnic:** The women's Bible study group will kick off summer with a picnic at Paula Windschitl's on **Thursday, June 21** at 6:30pm. All women, ages high school and up, are welcome! Just bring your favorite picnic treat to share, and we'll enjoy good food, great fellowship, and wonderful encouragement from God's Word. If you haven't been there for the first few chapters of the book of Esther, that's okay! We'll have a brief recap of what we've learned so far and then finish up this fascinating book. Please join us!

**Palmer Bus Service is looking for a full-time bus driver** for the 2018-19 school year. They are also looking for a manager to replace Randy Gieseke, who is retiring after serving twelve years as MVL's bus manager. A knowledge of diesel engines is helpful for the applicants for the manager position. Interested individuals should contact Shane Johnson at 507-327-6764.

**MVL Food Service Assistant:** At the close of this school year, Mrs. Donna Dose will be retiring as head of the food service at MVL. Thankfully, Mrs. Beth Fluegge will assume her role. As a result, Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School has a part-time position open in the food service. This position is for about 6 to 6 1/2 hours per day during the school year. Tasks include food preparation and service, washing dishes and clean up. Individuals interested in this position should contact Principal Tim Plath at MVL at 507-354-6851 or [tplath@mvlhs.org](mailto:tplath@mvlhs.org).

**Resident Hall Coordinators Needed:** Bethany Lutheran College (Mankato, MN) welcomes applications for two Resident Hall Coordinator positions. The Resident Hall Coordinator is a live-in professional who operates as a member of the Residential Life Staff, working to create a positive, Christian atmosphere that encourages academic, spiritual, social, and personal growth. A complete position description and application instructions can be found at <https://www.blc.edu/employment>.

**Bethany Lutheran College is hosting the 33rd Annual** Bethany Sports Classic Golf Tournament at the Mankato Golf Club on Monday, August 6. Renew old acquaintances and create new friendships at this exciting event to support Bethany Athletics. You may register online, email Jake Krier, or call (507)344-7519 to secure your spot at this year's tournament. You will need to register soon, as the tournament is close to being sold out. If you have any questions, are interested in sponsorship opportunities, or would like to donate an item for the silent auction or raffle, please contact Jake Krier on campus.

**OFFICIANT**

Pastor Chris Cordes

**ORGANIST**

Rachel Cordes

**GREETERS**

The Moldan Family

**COUNTERS**

G. Schroeder/C. &amp; R. Trebesch

**Special Prayers For:**

Dan Hacker;  
Chary Heidemann;  
Elaine Helget; Al Maasz;  
Konner Mathiowetz; Peyton Moldan;  
the family of Agnes Piotter;  
George Piotter; Lorelei Tauer;  
William Trebesch

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## COMING EVENTS

### Sun Jun 3

- 10:15am Presentation of architectural proposals for church master site concept

### Mon Jun 4

- 9:00am Free community Soccer Camp!
- 7:00pm Worship w/Communion
- 7:05pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- 7:45pm No Bible class this evening

### Tue Jun 5

- 9:00am Free community Soccer Camp!
- 9:00am Lay Delegate/Pastor/Teacher Conference
- 6:00pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- 8:00pm Elders' meeting

### Wed Jun 6

- 9:00am Free community Soccer Camp!
- 1:30pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- 7:00pm Choir rehearsal
- 8:00pm Board of Ed. meeting

### Thu Jun 7

- 9:00am Free community Soccer Camp!
- 10:00am St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- 4:00pm Worship service at Sleepy Eye Care Center

### Fri Jun 8

- 9:00am Free community Soccer Camp!
- 6:00pm Free community concert in the park!

### Sun Jun 10

- 10:30am Worship in the park - Theme: *Soccer Camp Finale!*
- 11:30am Potluck picnic
- 6:00pm Discussion group: building proposal

### Mon Jun 11

- 9:15am Faculty meeting
- 7:00pm Worship
- 7:05pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- 7:45pm No Bible class this evening

## St. John's Lutheran Church and School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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