



Take Your Cross!

**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.** 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!

### **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 silver box in Pastor's hand as he distributes the bread.

- 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, because it's like power-learning and sibling fun all in one! Just as the announcements are to begin, 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! **Itty Bitty Sunday School** is also available on request, with staff members in the lobby, ready to take any children aged infant through PreK, so that parents can attend Bible class. Adults and teens can head downstairs after the announcements where the fun begins in a topic focused on growing your lifestyle and character.

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## When God's People Are Persecuted

*No one likes to suffer, especially when suffering is thrust on you by malicious-minded people, and most especially not when they do harm because of your beliefs. It still happens in this world, and sometimes it comes as bloody persecution. Today the Lord gives us his take on the matter so we respond in a healthy way.*

### PASTOR'S WELCOME

## LITANY OF CONFESSION AND PRAISE

Minister: Oh, come, let us praise the Lord our God.

**Congregation: Let us bring to him our songs of joy and our words of honor.**

M: Let us lift up our voices to the God of all the earth, and come before him in spirit and in truth.

**C: We acknowledge before you, O King, and in the presence of one another, that we have not earned the right to stand in your presence, for our failings and our wrongs, our desires and our words, prove we are sinners. But your mercy is great, and your Son is the proof. All we need is your assurance of peace.**

M: And the Great One, the King of the Universe and the Hope of Sinners, reminds you again, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.” I have come to you and helped you: Here is my Son, whom I love. He has covered you with his life and death. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

**C: Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.**

M: O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come.

**C: When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions. Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!**

M: We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

**C: You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

### THE WORD

**FIRST LESSON:** Jeremiah 38:1-13 – *Jeremiah is persecuted for doing his job.*

Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jehucal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malkijah heard what Jeremiah was telling all the people when he said, <sup>2</sup>“This is what the LORD says: ‘Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague, but whoever goes over to the Babylonians will live. He will escape with his life; he will live.’” <sup>3</sup>And this is what the LORD says: ‘This city will certainly be handed over to the army of the king of Babylon, who will capture it.’”

<sup>4</sup>Then the officials said to the king, “This man should be put to death. He is discour-

aging the soldiers who are left in this city, as well as all the people, by the things he is saying to them. This man is not seeking the good of these people but their ruin.”

<sup>5</sup>“He is in your hands,” King Zedekiah answered. “The king can do nothing to oppose you.”

<sup>6</sup>So they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern of Malkijah, the king's son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud.

<sup>7</sup>But Ebed-Melech, a Cushite, an official in the royal palace, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern. While the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate, <sup>8</sup>Ebed-Melech went out of the palace and said to him, <sup>9</sup>“My lord the king, these men have acted wickedly in all they have done to Jeremiah the prophet. They have thrown him into a cistern, where he will starve to death when there is no longer any bread in the city.”

<sup>10</sup>Then the king commanded Ebed-Melech the Cushite, “Take thirty men from here with you and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.”

<sup>11</sup>So Ebed-Melech took the men with him and went to a room under the treasury in the palace. He took some old rags and worn-out clothes from there and let them down with ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern. <sup>12</sup>Ebed-Melech the Cushite said to Jeremiah, “Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to pad the ropes.” Jeremiah did so, <sup>13</sup>and they pulled him up with the ropes and lifted him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard.

**PSALM 116** – *Help in the deepest gloom*

page 107 in the front of the hymnal

**SECOND LESSON:** I Peter 4:12-19 – *Rejoice in persecution!*

<sup>12</sup>Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup>If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup>However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. <sup>17</sup>For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup>And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

<sup>19</sup>So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

**CHILDREN’S LESSON      How Did Jeremiah Get Out?**

*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 – Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken**

CW 465

**MESSAGE**

***Take Your Cross!***

Mark 8:27-35

<sup>27</sup>Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

<sup>28</sup>They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup>“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup>But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

<sup>34</sup>Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.”

*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.*

## THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

*We welcome Laura Rossow into our church family today through the Rite of Confirmation. Laura finished her Catechism classes and graduated from our school last May. She agrees with everything the Bible teaches and would like to unite herself to us and our profession of those teachings. Welcome, Laura!*

CONFIRMATION BLESSING – *May God the Father of Our Lord*

CW 597

## 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: 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.

**C: He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.**

M: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.

**C: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.**

## 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

## DISTRIBUTION

*During the distribution the congregation may sing hymn 419, If God Himself Be for Me.*

## CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

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.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN – *Day by Day*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Just as the announcements are beginning, 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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Pastor will be in a week of planning starting Tuesday. Our Elders will handle our spiritual concerns during that time. Pray for the Spirit to guide his planning for our worship and teaching!

**Adult Bible Class:** *Parenting with Love & Logic* – This practical, down-to-earth course helps parents, teachers, and grandparents discover how to deal with all sorts of challenges – and actually succeed!

**Next Sunday's Worship Theme:** *When Our Eyes Are Opened.*

**Thanks to all our hard-working brothers and sisters** for another fine Hog Roast last weekend! Thanks for giving the congregation a great tasting meal and a fine chance for fellowship! Thanks also to our school children and faculty for their music in our service. You are appreciated!

**Secretary Position Available!** One of our secretaries' spots is opening up, and we're looking for a replacement from our church membership. Currently hours are from 9:00am to 3:00pm, two school days per week, with the possibility of more days in the future. Duties would mostly involve church secretarial work, though some work for our school would also be included, in particular answering phones and being a positive, friendly face to all who enter the school. Ability to work with computers (Microsoft Office Suite), to have fun organizing, and ability to learn new things is important. Applications will be received at the school office.

**Fall Special at St. John's: Bible Discovery!** Please see the brochure on the back table for more information about signing up for Bible Information Class!

**Pumpkin Patch Palooza Update:** One of the things we do at the "Triple P" is sell produce (the proceeds of which will go to the Sleepy Eye Fire Department). Here is a partial list of items that could be sold: pumpkins, gourds, apples, ornamental corn, squash, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers. Please contact Shannon Landkammer (507-217-3962) or Sue Hinderman (507-227-6166) if you are able to provide any of these for our Farmers' Market. Thank you for your generosity!

Also needed are lots of pieces of wrapped candy and small toy prizes as awards for the many games. There will be about ten games, and about one grocery bag per game is needed. Any contributions you wish to make can be left in a box on the west counter in the kitchen downstairs. If your desire is to make a monetary contribution, there is a collection spot in the narthex today just for that.

LOTS of people are needed to sign up for general help! There's a sign up sheet in the narthex. Could you sign up today? Pray for good weather, and for these needs to be met soon so we can plan our event to the best of our ability!

The **final meeting** for the Triple P is Tuesday, **September 25**, at **6:30pm**. Anyone who is involved in any way is strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. Thank you!

**High School Choral Fest 2018:** This special event will be held at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School the weekend of November 8-11. Our congregation has been asked to house students from Divine Savior in Doral, FL as well as Evergreen Lutheran from Washington. Busing will be provided to transport students from Sleepy Eye to MVL and back each day. A host family would provide a very simple breakfast each morning, a place to sleep each night, and a ride to church so they can catch the bus. Sleeping bags on a floor are fine; beds are not required. Forms and information for host families are in the narthex. We are asked to have our host families lined up by October 1st. Would you house a couple of students? For questions, contact Judy Maasz or Paula Windschitl. Thank you!

**The Summit Avenue Music Series** season opener is today at 3:00pm in the Martin Luther College Chapel of the Christ. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

**School Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch!** It takes place tomorrow evening (September 17) from 5-8pm. Let's show our support for the school by heading over to the Pizza Ranch, New Ulm, and having some pizza! Ten percent of the sales during that time period will be given to the school.

**Celebrate Missions – A Teen Retreat:** next Sunday, September 23, from 2-5:30pm in the Chapel of the Christ basement. Bring your items for Healthy Living Kits and expect to have a good time!

**Marriage Enrichment:** All couples, both married and thinking about marriage, are invited to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm for *Distracted Marriage*. This program will provide a clear picture of how couples bring glory to God and joy to each other. The schedule is every other Sunday evening starting September 23<sup>rd</sup> (September 23, October 7 and 21, November 4 and 18, December 2) from 6:00-7:30 pm. Child care will be provided at church. There is no cost, just a great date evening, as couples focus on each other and God's Word.

**The Martin Luther College Wind Symphony** will kick off their concert season on Sunday, Sept. 30, at 3:00 pm in the Wittenberg Collegiate Center Auditorium. Featured works on this program include *Kirkpatrick Fanfare* by Andrew Boysen, a transcription of Claude Debussy's *The Girl with the Flaxen Hair*, *The Foshay Tower/Washington Memorial March* by John Philip Sousa, and *American Folk Rhapsody No. 1* by Claire Grundman. Please come and enjoy these and other works. This concert is free and open to the public.

**Adult Grief Support:** Redwood Area Hospital is once again offering support group sessions on Mondays, October 2 - November 5, 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, call Redwood Area Hospital Social Services at 507-637-4617.

**MVL Homecoming:** On October 5 alumni, parents and Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School Chargers fans are invited to Johnson Park in New Ulm for Homecoming 2018! The tailgate party starts at 6pm, and the Chargers take the field at 7pm. The post-game social at the New Ulm Community Center is free and all are welcome! The social includes Mr. and Ms. 40th Anniversary spirit-wear contests, exciting door prizes, bingo, and complimentary beverages and snacks.

**Dad's Belgian Waffles at MVL:** The MVL Booster Club is excited to serve the annual "Dad's Belgian Waffles" brunch. On Sunday, October 7, from 9am-1pm attend the all-you-care-to-eat waffles, flavored syrups, sausages, and beverages. Advance tickets can be purchased at home volleyball games, or call the school office at 507-354-6851.

**MLC Homecoming:** Are you looking for a fun, affordable activity for your family? Look

no further! On Saturday, October 13, the Martin Luther College Alumni Association invites you to campus for Homecoming. The events begin with the Sprinter Fun Run/Walk at 9am. This 1-mile course begins at the Sprinter statue by the gymnasium and meanders through the main campus. You are able to take strollers on the whole route! While this event is FREE and you are able to just come and participate, you must register by October 11th to be eligible for one of many community-sponsored door prizes. Learn more and sign up at:

[mlcsprinter18.eventbrite.com](http://mlcsprinter18.eventbrite.com).

After the Fun Run/Walk, enjoy more FREE fun that includes a bounce house, a QB Challenge, a photo booth, Bubble Soccer, sweet treats, and much more! Later that day you'll be able to watch the football and volleyball teams play at home at 12pm. Alumni are invited to finish the day off with an evening reception (4-7pm - free) at the Kegel Klub. If you need childcare during the evening reception, contact Sarah Zahrt at [zahrtse@gmail.com](mailto:zahrtse@gmail.com). Check out [www.mlc-wels.edu/events/homecoming](http://www.mlc-wels.edu/events/homecoming) for the full slate of events and come see what is new at your college of ministry!

**OFFICIANT**  
Pastor Chris Cordes

**ORGANIST**  
Rachel Cordes

**LECTOR**  
Greg Bartz

**ELDER ON DUTY**  
Gary Schroeder

**GREETERS**  
Doc & Marilyn Deibele

**COUNTERS**  
G. Schroeder/C. & R. Trebesch

**Special Prayers For:**

Chary Heideman;  
Elaine Helget; Al Maasz;  
Konner Mathiowetz; Peyton Moldan; George Piotter;  
Lorelei Tauer; William Trebesch;  
The family of Char Zimmerman

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## **Sign up for C18 at** [welscongregationalservices.net/c18](http://welscongregationalservices.net/c18)

1,000,000. It is a big number. Yet, that is the goal—to share the gospel with one million souls prior to and on Christmas Eve 2018. The only way to reach that goal for the army of saints that is the WELS is to work together. Each member, young and old, needs to embrace the privilege and responsibility of sharing Christ with unchurched friends, relatives, and neighbors.

A simple way to do that—invite them to come with you to your congregation’s Christmas Eve worship service. Christmas Eve has surpassed Easter as the worship service that unchurched individuals are most likely to attend. A recent survey found that 80% of unchurched adults would seriously consider accepting an invitation, extended by a friend, to attend a Christmas Eve service.

C18 (short for “Christmas 2018”) is a program produced by WELS Congregational Services to help our churches and members undertake this effort. When you sign up at [welscongregationalservices.net/c18](http://welscongregationalservices.net/c18), you will receive weekly updates, resources, and encouragement to help you in your effort to share the good news of the Christ child.

Christmas will be here before you know it. Sign up now!

## COMING EVENTS

### Sun Sep 16

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

### Mon Sep 17

- **Newsletter Deadline**
- 5:00pm Pizza Ranch Tip Night
- 7:00pm Worship w/Communion
- 7:05pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- 7:45pm Spiritual growth for adults and teens!

### Tue Sep 18

- Pastor's planning week begins
- 8:10am No Catechism class
- 6:00pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye

### Wed Sep 19

- 1:30pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- 4:00pm Soccer home game vs. Arlington
- 7:00pm Choir practice

### Thu Sep 20

- 8:10am No Catechism class
- 10:00am St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- 4:00pm Worship service at Sleepy Eye Care Center
- 6:30pm Women's Bible class at the parsonage

### Sun Sep 23

- 9:00am Worship – Theme: *When Our Eyes Are Opened*
- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults!

### Mon Sep 24

- 7:00pm Worship
- 7:05pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- 7:45pm Spiritual growth for adults and teens!

## St. John's Lutheran Church and School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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