



That Accursed Tree

Welcome, guests! If you're new to orthodox (Bible-conserving) Lutheran worship, there may be a lot more going on than meets the eye. Don't be offended or worried if you don't "get it" the first few times you worship here. Know that you are welcome here while you begin to learn the language and culture of this assembly dedicated to the crucified and living Christ.

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!

- **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.

When Our Eyes Are Opened

They say ignorance is bliss, but that's not always so. Sometimes we lack the kind of understanding we absolutely need, the kind that truly matters in this life. But God's plan has always been to open people's minds and help them see what is most important. The lessons we cover today will either open your eyes for the first time, or open them wider. Seeing clearly what God wants us to know makes the eternal difference!

CHILDREN'S SONG – *Rejoice in the Lord*

by Timothy Shaw

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice in the Lord always!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again I will say: Rejoice!*

*Do not worry about anything; pray about everything.
Share with God all your troubles and fears; he will care for you.*

*Ponder things that are noble and true, right and pure, good for all;
Whatever is worthy of praise, think about these things.*

*And the perfect peace of God, higher than all our thoughts,
Guards your hearts and guards your minds as you trust in him.
God will give you perfect peace as you trust in him*

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN – *Drawn to the Cross*

CW 387

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I was altogether sinful at birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

M: Let us pray.

The minister says the Prayer of the Day.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9 – *The Bronze Snake*

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

PSALM 31 – *Surely it is God!*

page 77 in the front of the hymnal

SECOND LESSON: Mark 9:30-32 – *Ignorance about Jesus*

³⁰They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” ³²But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

HYMN – *Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults*

CW 398

MESSAGE

That Accursed Tree

Galatians 3:10-13

¹⁰All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”

¹¹Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” ¹²The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.” ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

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, please rise to sing hymn 488, verses 3 and 4, Savior, Thy Dying Love.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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 – *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

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!

Our thanks to Rev. Larry Wiederich for leading us in worship today and sharing insights into God's truth for our Bible Study Hour. He is retired and lives in North Mankato with his wife, Michele.

Bible Class: Today's class will feature the story of The Valley of Dry Bones as Pastor Wiederich teaches what it means in practical terms and what you should do if you ever appear in the valley!

Next Sunday's Worship Theme: *The Power of Your Lips.*

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

Pumpkin Patch Palooza Reminders:

- Please contact Shannon Landkammer (507-217-3962) or Sue Hinderman (507-227-6166) if you are able to provide any produce for our Farmers' Market.
- Any wrapped candy or small toys you may wish to donate 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 for that.
- LOTS of people are needed to sign up for general help! There's a signup 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 PPP (Pumpkin Patch Palooza) is **this 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!

Celebrate Missions – A Teen Retreat: today, 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*. It begins this evening and continues every other Sunday (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 kicks off its concert season next Sunday, Sept. 30, at 3:00 pm in the Wittenberg Collegiate Center Auditorium. 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 1 - 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.

C18 (Christmas 2018): 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 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, 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!

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.

MLC Ladies' Auxiliary: The annual meeting is Saturday, October 6, at Martin Luther College. The auxiliary supports the students, our future pastors and teachers, through campus projects. Registration begins at 8am, the meeting begins at 9am, and there will be presentations, student entertainment, lunch in the Luther Student Center, workshops, and a closing service in the Chapel of the Christ, ending the day at 3:30pm. Child care is available. Email mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu for more information.

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 **today** in the back of church from one of our MVL students.

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.

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. Check out www.mlc-wels.edu/events/homecoming for the full slate of events and come see what is new at your college of ministry!

WELS Marriage Enrichment & Getaway Weekend: Enjoy a marriage enrichment weekend January 11-13, 2019. The cost is \$349 per couple and includes lodging, breakfast both days and lunch on Saturday. Spend your weekend learning how to know each other better, appreciate each other more, gain trust, manage conflict, nurture intimacy and connect with each other intentionally - all in the light of God's grace. Space is limited, so register early! See the brochure in the back table for more information.

OFFICIANT
Pastor Larry Wiederich

ORGANIST
Laurie Silfies

LECTOR
Jesse Cordes

ELDER ON DUTY
David Silfies

GREETERS
The Jensen Family

COUNTERS
D. Guhlke/S. & S. Hinderman

Special Prayers For:

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

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

COMING EVENTS

Sun Sep 23

- 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!

Tue Sep 25

- 8:10am Catechism class
- 6:00pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- 6:30pm Pumpkin Patch Palooza meeting

Wed Sep 26

- 9:00am Newsletter assembly
- 1:30pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- 4:00pm Soccer home game at Redwood Falls
- 7:00pm Choir practice

Thu Sep 27

- 8:10am 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 - topic: *Gender Identity*
- 6:30pm Meeting with Grace in Action representative

Sat Sep 29

- 9:00am Soccer Tournament - New Ulm

Sun Sep 30

- 9:00am Worship – Theme: *The Power of Your Lips*
- 10:00am Soccer awards
- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults!
- 11:30am PTO meeting

Mon Oct 1

- Pastor Appreciation Month begins
- 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)

221 Walnut Street SE • 216 3rd Ave SE

Sleepy Eye, Minnesota 56085

www.stjohnsse.com

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

507-794-4500

920-312-3829

pastorcordes@gmail.com

danrick07@gmail.com

Church and School Office: (507) 794-6200

office@stjohnsse.com

