



Miracles in Life

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

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

What's next?

If you're just getting back to church or looking for a new church, let this be your road map on the journey.

- **Come back next week.** 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!

Miracles in Life

Do you need a miracle? Sometimes we really do. Our service today focuses on the miraculous powers of Jesus Christ, but you'll notice an underlying message: There's more to miracles than just miracles. And more often than we realize, we need something way bigger than a miracle. What could that be?

PASTOR'S WELCOME

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

CW 234

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.

CW 169, verse 1

C: ♪ Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood.”

M: Let us pray.

The minister says the Prayer of the Day.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35:4-7a – *Miracles were predicted!*

⁴Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

PSALM 146 – *Whom do you trust?*

page 120 in the front of the hymnal

SECOND LESSON: Acts 3:1-10 – *Peter heals a crippled man*

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon. ²Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him

up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

CHILDREN'S SONG – *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

LAPPY p. 270

The congregation is invited to join in singing the final refrain, after verse 3.

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance,
By the blood I may enter your brightness; search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, Shine on me.

Refrain

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, Shine on me.

Refrain (Children and congregation)

CHILDREN'S LESSON

What Else Did Peter Do?

*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 – *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

CW 353

MESSAGE

More Than Miracles

Mark 7:31-37

³¹Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³²There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man.

³³After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). ³⁵At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Taking the message home: _____

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 236, verses 1 and 5, All Praise to God Who Reigns Above.

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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.

HYMN – *To God Be the Glory*

CW 399

CLOSING PRAYER

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.

CLOSING HYMN/BLESSING – *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

CW 332

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you missed this morning's first class of *Parenting with Love & Logic*, don't worry, step in next week. Ask Pastor about getting a book!

Flowers on the altar today were placed there by David and Laurie Silfies to glorify God in thanksgiving for 25 years of marriage. Thank you!

Next Sunday's Worship Theme: *When God's People Are Persecuted.*

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

Our pie stand at Buttered Corn Days was very successful. We raised \$1611.00 before expenses to be split between WinGS and the Youth Group. Many thanks to all who participated in any way, shape or form.

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 for more information!

High School Choral Fest 2018: This special event will be held at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School this year 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!

College Students' Addresses: Our church office needs updated addresses for current college students. Please call or email any new addresses as soon as possible. Thanks!

4-oz. canning jars, anyone? Jan Dittbenner has some lovely freeze-dried herbs to sell at

the Pumpkin Patch Palooza, and we just need some jars to put them in. If you have any 4-oz. (½ cup) jars to spare, please let Jan know, or you can just bring them to the kitchen counter, west wall. Thank you!

Martin Luther College is now accepting applications for a regular part-time Education Office Administrative Assistant. A comprehensive description of this position can be found at mlc-wels.edu/hr. Interested individuals should apply online. Applications will be accepted through 12:00 pm (noon) on Tuesday, September 11, 2018. Additional information and details can be obtained by contacting the Martin Luther College Human Resources Office at 507-354-8221.

Thrivent Savvy Social Security Planning Workshop Opportunities This Week:

Contact Susan at susan.plocher@thrivent.com or 507-354-4413 to RSVP.

- Monday September 10, at 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1400 S State St, New Ulm
- Tuesday, September 11, 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 413 W 5th St, Winthrop

Pumpkin Patch Palooza Meeting: It's this Tuesday (September 11) at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Plans for the event on October 6th will be firmed up. Committee members and all willing volunteers are encouraged to attend. **Special needs at this time:** Square straw bales, a games helper/coordinator, and LOTS of people 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!

Choir Rehearsals: The choir season is about to begin! The first rehearsal is this Wednesday (September 12) at 7:00pm. It's a great opportunity to worship the Lord in a special way. You don't need to be a trained soloist to join! If you enjoy singing, you can be a choir member. It takes many voices to make a choir. Come and join the fun!

Women's Bible Class: The fall session is starting! Our first meeting is set for this Thursday (September 13), 6:30pm, at the parsonage. We'll meet weekly through November 15 (the week before Thanksgiving). Any women, from high school age on up, are welcome to come and explore *Timely Topics, Timeless Truths*.

The Summit Avenue Music Series season opener is next Sunday, September 16 at 3:00pm in the Martin Luther College Chapel of the Christ and will feature violinist **Peter McGuire**, cellist **Richard Belcher**, pianist **Bethel Balge**, and soprano **Kathryn Wurster**. You may purchase tickets in advance through SummitAvenueMusic.com/tickets/, at the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce (1 N. Minnesota St.), or call 507-233-9141 to leave a message. Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the day of the event.

School Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch! We are going to have a St. John's night at Pizza Ranch in New Ulm next Monday (September 17) from 5-8pm. Let's show our support for the school by heading over there and having some pizza! Ten percent of the sales during that time period will be given to the school.

Celebrate Missions – A Teen Retreat: Your MN Regional Mission team of Kingdom Workers and Martin Luther College invite 7th-12th graders to attend “Celebrate Missions.” On Sunday, Sept. 23rd, from 2:00-5:30pm, area teens will meet in the Chapel of the Christ basement to share mission stories from their summer, compile Healthy Living Kits for infants to teens that are in need, learn about MLC, be entertained, and eat in the MLC cafeteria. Teens are encouraged to bring 5 to 8 items to add to the Healthy Living Kits. Possible items include: infant or child shampoo, bars of soap, small packages of Wet Ones, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, First Aid to Go packs, lip balm, washcloths, small packages of tissues, hand lotion, dental floss, combs, or deodorant. Consider unscented items if possible. If anyone is interested, contact Stephanie Rockhoff (262) 455-1011.

School Refrigerator Replacement: The aging school lunch refrigerator in the kitchen downstairs needs to be replaced. The cost for a new one would be a maximum of \$5,000, and an anonymous donor has provided \$1,000 to start things off. If you feel moved to help with this, it would be greatly appreciated.

Does anyone remember how the original refrigerator was maneuvered into the basement? If so, please let Mickey Meyer or Laurie Silfies know how it was done.

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 23rd (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 join us for these and other works. This concert is free and open to the public.

Church Anniversary: Hope, Andover, MN, celebrates its 25th Anniversary, October 7, 2018. Former Pastors Peter Leyrer and Michael Borgwardt will preach in the 10am and 4pm services. A meal will follow the afternoon service. For more information contact 763-421-8434 or dprussow@gmail.com.

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 Chris Cordes

ORGANIST
Rachel Cordes

LECTOR
Todd Hammerschmidt

ELDER ON DUTY
David Silfies

GREETERS
Hoffmann Family

COUNTERS
S. Halvorson/N. Houldson
C. Leopold

Special Prayers For:

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

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COMING EVENTS

Sun Sep 9

- 11:30am Hog Roast!

Mon Sep 10

- Pastors' Conference in Marine on St. Croix
- 6:55am Faculty meeting
- 7:00pm Worship
- 7:05pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- 7:45pm Spiritual growth for adults and teens!

Tue Sep 11

- Pastors' Conference
- 8:10am No Catechism class
- 6:00pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- 6:30pm Pumpkin Patch meeting

Wed Sep 12

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

Thu Sep 13

- 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

Sat Sep 15

- 9:00am Soccer tournament in Mankato
- 6:00pm Youth Group

Sun Sep 16

- 9:00am Worship w/Communion – Theme: *When God's People Are Persecuted*
- 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!

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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