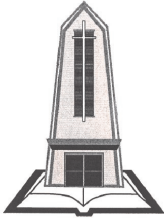


MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others”. (2 Timothy 2:2)

JANUARY 20 & 21, 2024

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION
HAVING A HEART FOR THE MINISTRY



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
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WELCOME

We welcome all of you as we gather around Word and sacrament to worship Jesus, who made it known that he is the Son of God and Savior of the world. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us for worship today. We encourage you to join us in signing the Friendship Register to let us know that you are here, and we invite you to worship with us again.

THEME OF THE DAY: Having a Heart for the Ministry

If you were hiring someone to fill a position at your company, whom would you most likely hire, one who admits to you that he just wants to earn some money or one who tells you he has a heart for this kind of work. Normally, you would hire the one who has a heart for the work because you know that one is willing to learn to do the job well and wants to do it well. God's Word today reveals to us that he desires people who have a heart for the ministry. Naturally, no one would qualify because the sinfulness of people makes all of us unwilling to serve. Yet, the Holy Spirit has called us by the gospel to believe that Jesus has done it all for our eternal salvation. That changes our hearts to be willing to serve our Savior and to be concerned about the spiritual welfare of others. Today, we also praise the Lord for blessing our synod with a Ministerial Education system that trains well those who have a heart for serving the Lord and those who need to hear and learn the saving gospel. And we ask that the Lord grants more and more a heart for the ministry.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist

Preacher

Organist

Cantor

Pastor Paul Schaewe
Tutor Jeremiah Wallander (MLS)
Ms. Gail McFarland
Mr. Klay Gillham (10:30)

Cover art: WELS.net

THE SERVICE

Setting One with Communion (Blue Hymnal pp. 154-170)

THE GATHERING

OPENING HYMN

716 *O Christ, Who Called the Twelve*

CONFESSION

(p. 154)

LORD, HAVE MERCY

(pp. 156-157)

GLORY BE TO GOD

(pp. 157-159)

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the harvest, inspire the hearts of many to offer themselves for the public ministry of your church. Look with favor on our schools, blessing those who teach and those who learn that they may apply themselves diligently to your will and faithfully to your service; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9-21

With a gentle whisper, the Lord gave assurance to Elijah's heart to serve

⁹ He came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD suddenly came to him, saying, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life."

¹¹ Then the LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is passing by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains and shattered rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind.

After the wind came an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

¹² After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.

After the fire there was a soft, whispering voice.

¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak, and he went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. Then a voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came and go to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you get there, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ You will also anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill, and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. ¹⁸ But I have preserved in Israel seven thousand whose knees have not bent to Baal and whose lips have not kissed him."

¹⁹ So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. Elisha was doing the plowing with twelve teams of oxen in front of him, and he himself was driving the twelfth team. Elijah crossed over to him and threw his cloak over him. ²⁰ Then Elisha left the oxen and ran after Elijah. He said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother goodbye! Then I will follow you."

Then Elijah said, "Go back! For what have I done to you?"

²¹ So Elisha turned back from following him. Then he took the team of oxen and slaughtered them. Using the equipment from the oxen as fuel, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he got up, followed Elijah, and served him. ^{EHV}

PSALM HYMN

758 *Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds*

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 2:1,2

St. Paul instructs Timothy to entrust the gospel truths to faithful men to enable them to teach others.

¹You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²Entrust the things you heard from me, in the presence of many witnesses, to faithful men who will also be able to teach others. ^{EHV}

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ephesians 4:11,12

Pastor speaks the appointed verse

Alleluia. So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-34

Because Jesus' heart went out to people who were like shepherd-less sheep, he took time to teach them.

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." For there were so many people coming and going that they did not even have

a chance to eat. ³² They went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ But many people saw them leave and knew where they were going. They ran there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus stepped out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. His heart went out to them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He began to teach them many things. ^{EHV}

HYMN OF THE DAY

899 *Lord Jesus Christ, Our Savior-King*

SERMON TEXT

Acts 17:16-33

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was very distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he led a discussion in the synagogue with the Jews and those who feared God, as well as with those who happened to be in the marketplace every day.

¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also debated with him. Some said, “What is this seed picker trying to say?” Others said, “He seems to be someone who is proclaiming foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

¹⁹ They took him and brought him to the council of the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are talking about? ²⁰ You seem to be bringing in some ideas that are strange to our ears, so we want to know what these things mean.” ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there enjoyed doing nothing more than telling or listening to something new.)

²² Then Paul stood up in front of the council of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. ²³ For as I was walking around and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, ‘To an unknown god.’ Now what you worship as unknown—this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have. ²⁶ From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the boundaries where they would live. ²⁷ He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘Indeed, we are also his offspring.’

²⁹ “Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning. ³⁰ Although God overlooked the times of ignorance, he is now commanding all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world

in righteousness by the man he appointed. He provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

³² When they heard about the resurrection from the dead, some of them started to scoff. But others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” ³³ So Paul left the council.^{EHV}

THEME: THERE IS SOMETHING MORE!

NICENE CREED	(pp. 162-163)
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OFFERING	
THE SACRAMENT	
PREFACE	(pp. 165-166)
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY	(p. 167)
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING	(p. 168)
LORD’S PRAYER	Traditional (p. 168)
WORDS OF INSTITUTION	(p. 168)
O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD	(p. 169)
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS	756 <i>Shepherd of Tender Youth</i> 896 <i>Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give</i>
THANKSGIVING RESPONSES AND PRAYER	(p. 170)
BLESSING	(p. 170)

This Week at St. John's

Sunday	11:30 am	New Member/Volunteer Appreciation Potluck
Tuesday	5:30 pm & 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Boy's Basketball: B Team & A Team vs Bethel @ Home Technology Committee
Wednesday	10:00 am & 7:00 pm	Midweek Bible Class
Friday	11:00 am 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm 5:30 pm & 6:30 pm	Newsletter Crew School Pep Rally Boy's Basketball: B Team & A Team @ Bethel
Saturday	6:00 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Worship Service Coffee Hour/Bible Study/BIC/Sr. Choir Practice Worship Service/Grades 1-4 sing, accompanied by Jr. Bells Call Meeting

Announcements

Schedule change: Dr. Kevin Peil's presentation, *Top Science Questions for Today's Christian*, has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 4th, at 4:00 pm. The (free) pizza supper will follow.

School Fundraiser: Our 5th-8th grade classes are having a Little Caesars Fundraiser, now until January 28th. Check out the brochure and order form on the hallway table.

Call Updates: Mr. Dane Mattes announced this past weekend that he returned his call to be our Principal and 7th-8th grade teacher. We will be holding another call meeting on Jan. 28th after the 10:30 am worship service. We will be calling for both the Principal and 7th-8th grade position as well as the 5th-6th grade teacher position.

Preschool packets for the 2024/2025 school year are now available in the church and school offices.

The MLS Concert Choir will be performing the American & Canadian National Anthem before puck drop at the January 28th Saginaw Spirit game against the Windsor Spitfires. Upper Level tickets are \$17. \$5 per ticket sold by using the link will be donated back to the Concert Choir. To purchase tickets call 989-497-6507, or online at: <https://www.saginawspirit.net/groupsales/>. Username: MLSCHOIR128; Password: SPIRIT

Men Alive! Rally, February 17th: Registration is open for this annual event that gathers into one setting some talented presenters from our WELS synod. We'll gain scriptural insights and gospel motivation for "A Battle for My Heart" (this year's theme). Join us for this 1-day event on Saturday, February 17th, and walk away spiritually enriched. This event has the reputation of offering a hearty man-breakfast and man's-man lunch. Breakfast begins at 7:15 am and the rally ends at 3:00 pm. This year we meet at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bay City. Space is limited! Register by January 31st at: www.menalive-balm.org/. Cost to attend: Men 23+ years - \$65; men 14-22 years - \$40. Schedules of the day's events are on the table outside the church office.

MLS Foundation Dinner & Auction: Save the date for the annual dinner & auction on Sunday, February 18th at the Great Hall in Midland! If you would like to donate an item to be auctioned off, visit our donation page at <https://bit.ly/44ZPmxK> to fill out a donation form. To purchase tickets, visit our website: <https://mls-foundation.org/>.

Worship Service Attendance	2024	2023
Worship Service Attendance, 1/13 & 1/14	131	175