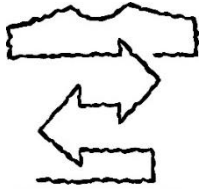


New Year, New Clothes!

Depending on what we do for a job, we need to dress a certain way for work. When we leave our homes to run errands, meet friends, or go to church, we likely will take a quick look in the mirror before we leave. What does my hair look like? Is my tie straight? Do I have any breakfast on my face? Do my clothes match?

At the beginning of a new year, many people make resolutions in their lives. Some resolve to be better students or spouses, parents or friends. Others resolve to eat better, to quit smoking, to get better organized, etc.



**CLOTHES
SWAP**

God gives us a perfect New Year's resolution, and it has to do with how we dress as Christians: "You were taught...to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:24)

Through our baptism, the Holy Spirit has brought into God's family and we have been made new. The old sinful nature and its filthy rags of immorality and disobedience have been taken away, only to be exchanged with robes of righteousness Jesus has provided for us through his redemption. In other words, Jesus gives us everything we need to live new and holy lives. God has adopted us into his family, equipped us to love, serve, and praise him. One of the ways we do that is by putting on our new self daily, just as we put on our new clothes every morning, empowered by God to live for him instead of ourselves or as slaves to the devil.

No matter what we choose in terms of our clothes choices each morning, let's continue to be the new person God has already made us to be by his grace: baptized and redeemed children of the King. These are the only clothes that will fit us eternally!

Grow in 2024!

Without a plan to do something, plans often fail. We may have the genuine desire to grow in our faith, but sometimes life gets in the way. We may *want* to get into God's Word on a more regular basis, but too often



those noble plans end up buried by "I don't have time today...maybe tomorrow."

So how can we turn our good intentions into reality? Make a plan. Below you'll find a number of different ways you can take to heart the apostle Peter's encouragement to "grow in grace." Start small. Make a plan to connect yourself to the means of grace more often...those tools the Holy Spirit uses to nurture faith. Establish a habit, then come back and spend a few minutes more for more and add another 5 or 15 minutes to the mix.

Start with the easy ones...come to church regularly to be fed spiritually with God's Word and the Lord's Supper. But then consider other ways God promises will feed your faith. God will bless your time with him in his Word and Sacrament.

Meditations *Our congregation has a standing order for these daily devotions, based on the readings you'll hear in church. Each devotion offers a Scripture reading, devotion and prayer. It's a quarterly publication and you'll find them in church before each quarter begins.*

Seasonal Devotions *For the past several years we've been receiving Advent and Lenten devotional booklets. Well-written and illustrated, they're perfect for the busy person who only has 3-4 minutes (seasonal).*

Book Devotions *Available from our publishing house (online.nph.net), you'll find 5 Minute Bible Studies for Teens, Couples, and Families. Other excellent devotional books include "The Story Bible" (for kids), "364 Days of Thanksgiving," anything written by Richard Lauersdorf, and much more. Check the website.*

There are a host of online bible reading / study resources on the internet

these days. What follows is just a taste...

- **Whataboutjesus.com** - answers a ton of questions about God and life, worship, etc...
- **Myfamilytable.org** – equips families to gather around God’s Word in their daily lives
- **timeofgrace.org** – a treasure trove of 1-minute written devotions, 5-7 minute video devotions, or 30 minute sermons on a variety of topics...also deliverable to your inbox.
- **ChristianLifeResources.com** – provides current Biblically-grounded counsel on beginning of life, end of life, and family issues
- **Lutheranmilitary.org** – provides Christ-centered support to WELS / ELS active military, reserves and retired military families
- **Marriage Moments** - Every marriage has its “moments.” That’s why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. Marriage Moments are short, weekly videos highlighting one Biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Find them at www.wels.net and search for “Marriage Moments” to sign up for a weekly e-mail



The traditional bible reading plans are still a great way to be exposed to God’s plan of salvation as a whole. Check out the following bible reading plans and pick one that works for you...

- <https://wels.net/serving-you/bible/>
- <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/>

Congregational News

The Annual meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 22nd**. So what happens at these meetings and why are they important? These meetings

provide financial and decision-making transparency, and allow two-way



communication between leadership and the membership. On that night we’ll hear reports from the various areas of ministry here at Zion, take into consideration some recommendations from the long range facilities committee, approve the annual budget, elect a few new leaders, etc... You’re invited to join us on the 22nd.

Long Range Facilities Recommendations At the Annual meeting later this month, the Council (at the recommendation of our Long Range Facilities committee) will be recommending we replace the parsonage roof, a portion of the fellowship hall roof, and add insulation to the ceiling in the church proper. The estimated costs to complete these projects will be about \$18,000.

New Internet and Phone The Council recently decided to take advantage of the recent Spectrum cable lines that were run across County Road D from the church. Installation is scheduled to occur in the next month or so. By switching, we should see increased internet speeds, have the capability to livestream services and events and decrease the overall cost of those services. We hope to retain our old landline phone number, but that is still up in the air.

Worship Focus in January / February For most of his adult life, Jesus was known simply as Mary’s son. He followed his adoptive father, Joseph, into the carpentry business. People in his hometown of Nazareth probably



thought of Jesus as a very nice man—hardworking, honest, a role model for others. (That is still how many think of Jesus today.) But around the age of 30, the fuller truth about Jesus began to be revealed: his person, his power, his purpose. It started with Jesus standing in a

river with John the Baptist. The biggest epiphany took place at a mountain, where select followers saw Jesus shining brighter than the sun. All these epiphanies—all these revelations about Jesus—changed the lives of everyone around him. In this season of Epiphany, as we follow

Jesus from the Jordan river to the Mount of Transfiguration, may they change us too.

Our worship will follow this basic outline...

- ✓ January 7th The Epiphany
- ✓ January 14th The Kindness in His Calling
- ✓ January 21st Committed to a Lofty Charge
- ✓ January 28th Absolute Authority
- ✓ February 4th The Devil's Work Undone
- ✓ February 11th A Glimpse of His True Glory

KML News

Percussion Concert On Saturday, January 13, at 6:30 PM, enjoy a pans and percussion concert featuring the percussion ensembles of Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, and the Kettle Moraine Lutheran Elementary Schools as well as the WLHS Viking Steel. The concert will be held in KML's PAC auditorium and also livestreamed at kmlhs.org/stream.

Job Openings KML is looking to fill a position in the concession stand during home games and tournaments. It entails simple food preparation, customer service, and clean up. The schedule involves nights and weekends. If interested or for additional information, contact Mr. Jody Hansen, Director of Operations at 262.677.4051 x4004 or e-mail him at jody.hansen@kmlhs.org.

There is also an opening for a Study Hall/Commons Supervisor. Duties include monitoring students, maintaining an atmosphere conducive to study, issuing student passes as needed, collecting and entering lunch deposits, and depositing money with the fiscal office. Additionally, the person in this position will compile and disseminate school-wide morning announcements. This is a part-time seasonal position of approximately 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Friday from August – May. Proposed start date for this job opening is January



2024. Hourly pay will be based on experience. This position does not include benefits. Please submit questions and resumes on or before January 15, 2024, to Mrs. Melanie Schoeneck (262.677.4051x4018) or e-mail melanie.schoeneck@kmlhs.org.

Save the Date! Mark Saturday, April 20, 2024, on your calendar and plan to join us on campus at KML for the Golden Gala! Watch kmlhs.org/gala for more info coming soon!

WELS News

Mission in Vietnam The Hmong Fellowship Church has grown from 55,000 members when WELS started working with them in 2011 to 145,000 members today. Following this year's group of 57 graduates from



WELS' rural training program in Vietnam, two more groups of about 60 leaders each are scheduled to graduate in 2028 and 2029. The many prayers and

generous gifts for this ministry have allowed WELS to train 700 church leaders. Support from WELS members provided travel, meals, and lodging to these leaders conducting the training. Learn more about the mission in Vietnam at www.wels.net/vietnam.

Women's Ministry webinar Want to learn about using hospitality to reconnect with others at your church and also as an evangelism tool? "Reviving Relationships Through Biblical Hospitality," a new webinar from WELS Women's Ministry, will inspire you to rethink your relationships and get you thinking about your own church culture with new eyes. Panelists will talk about the importance of biblical hospitality in your home, at church, and even in public. The webinar will be held Thursday, January 18th from 7 - 8 p.m. (CST). Learn more and register at wels.net/women.

WELS Night with the Herd The Wisconsin Herd are excited to be hosting our annual WELS Night on **Saturday, February 24th, 2024** at 7:00 p.m.! There will be some in-game promotions to celebrate WELS and the

Winnebago Lutheran Academy band will be performing during the game. All attendees are invited to shoot some free throws and take a photo together on the court after the game to commemorate the experience together. For more information or to purchase tickets, please go to www.fevogm.com/WELS

News, Notes & Invitations

Awake & Alive Young adults and professionals 18-28, we are excited to announce that Awake and Alive 2024 will be held at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha, WI from **January 12, 2024 · 5 p.m. - January 14, 2024** ! This three - day event brings young people from around the region and the country together to enjoy Christian community, interviews, discussions, devotions and breakout topics. Best of all are the three times for community groups to get to know new people while digging deeper into the topics of this year's conference. If you are in your late teens to late 20s, mark your calendars and start making plans to join us for three days of growing in your relationship with Jesus and with your generation at Awake and Alive 2024!! See www.awakealive.com for the full details.

OWLS Meetings The next meeting of Flyway OWLS (Chapter 77) will take place **Tuesday, January 9**, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** at St. Peter's, Fond du Lac, multi-purpose room. Our speaker for January is Chris Caporale of Alliant Energy and he will present on the utility's Springfield Solar Project between Lomira and Brownsville and how solar energy plays into the larger energy picture. He will answer questions on any topics related to energy generation and distribution. If you have any questions, contact Stefanie Gutermann at 920-583-2166 or gutermann@utilitytool.com

The next meeting of the Dodge-Washington OWLS will take place **January 22nd at 10 a.m.** in the fellowship hall of Peace, Hartford. The gathering of



Picnic Plans

the OWLS will involve participating in an indoor picnic that will feature the playing of games including cards and board games. A variety of games will be provided. However, attendees are encouraged to bring

along a favorite game of their choosing. The business meeting agenda will include the election of new officers and the collection of the yearly OWLS national dues of \$20. A picnic-potluck meal will conclude the meeting . Please bring a dish to pass.

After Christmas Sale Merry Christmas! Save up to 50%* on select books, slightly imperfect bibles, cards, decorations, and more while supplies last in NPH's After Christmas Sale through January 15, 2024! Go to <https://online.nph.net/> for the sale.

Youth Rally It's not too early to start planning for this year's International Youth Rally to be held in Fort Collins, CO on **June 25-28, 2024** at Colorado State University. Hang out with some 2,000 teenagers who share your faith, hear about timely teen topics, and experience four days in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Check out the poster on the bulletin board or go to www.welsyouthrally.net for more information.

