February 18, 2018
9:00 AM
Welcome – to all who have gathered to hear the Good News of Jesus!

Visitors – We are so glad you chose to join us today! We understand that visiting a church can be an intimidating experience. We pray that Jesus blesses and nourishes your faith through the gospel proclaimed this day. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask. God bless your worship!

Restroom – It is located in the back room.

Small Children – Small children are always welcome in our service, no matter how fussy they may get or how much noise they make. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to learn about worship, observe their parents listening to God’s Word and, most importantly, hear about their Savior! If you should need to take your child out for any reason, you can go in the back room and still watch the service on closed-circuit TV. Thanks for bringing your kids to hear about Jesus.

Connect With Us – Please fill out the connection card you received when you came in today with as much info as you are comfortable. This helps us better serve you whether you are a guest, visitor or member. Thank you for worshipping with us.

Today—Our Temptation

Jesus knew what it was like to be tempted. Just like us he faced real temptations every day. Yet, as the perfect Son of God, he always was able to resist those temptations and overcome for us.

This morning we are taking a closer look at Jesus who not only understands the temptations we face, but also gives us the strength and the weapons to win the battle.
ORDER OF SERVICE

SERVICE OF THE WORD
The “Service of the Word” can trace its roots to the historic Christian Church. The parts of the service marked M are spoken by the minister, and the parts marked C are spoken by everyone in the congregation.

OPENING SONG
How Deep The Father’s Love
Words and Music by Stuart Townsend

How deep the Father’s love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss -
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart -
His wounds have paid my ransom.
PLEASE STAND

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS
In the confession we acknowledge our sins and ask God to forgive them. The absolution stresses the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ for our sins and the sins of the world. In the absolution we are assured that Christ has forgiven us of all our 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 am altogether sinful from 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

After hearing the announcement of forgiveness, there is every reason for relief, joy, and thanksgiving. With that in mind, we sing this song with words taken from Psalm 34:8 and Psalm 119:89.

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

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.
THE WORD
This section is the heart and high point of our service. What follows is not the uncertain word of untrustworthy human beings. It is the Word of God that has called us to faith and strengthens our faith in Jesus as our Savior.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON  Genesis 3:1-15
Everything changed when Satan tempted our first parents and they fell into sin.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” 4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” 10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” 11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” 12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” 14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (NIV)
The children are invited up front for a message from God's Word.

*Kids sing:* Were You There

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**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Hebrews 4:14-16

*Jesus was tempted in every way just like us, but didn't sin even once.*

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (NIV)
VERSE OF THE DAY

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was tempted just like us and never gave in to those temptations for us.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' " 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' " 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!
SERMON HYMN

Just As I Am
Christian Worship 397

SERMON:

Matthew 4:1-11

APOSTLES’ CREED

The Creed is a summary and profession of the Christian faith. This is a confession of the whole Christian Church on earth concerning the teachings of Scripture and especially about the person of Jesus Christ.

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.
Our thank-offering to the Lord flows out of the thankful hearts that have received the forgiveness of sins though a crucified and risen Savior. Please take a moment and fill out the connection card and place it in the offering plate as it goes by.

For your convenience, scan this QR code or give online @ welsalc.com and click on the online giving tab.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
The Lord invites our prayers and promises to listen and respond according to his will.

LORD’S PRAYER
ALL: 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
The Battle Belongs to the Lord
Let All the People Praise You Songbook 16
**PRAYER AND BLESSING**

Having seen and heard all that the Lord has done, we are prepared to go from here in peace, to live in harmony with each other, and serve our God with gladness.

**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.

![Musical notation]

**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.

![Musical notation]

**CLOSING HYMN**

**On Eagles’ Wings**

Christian Worship 440

**A FEW MOMENTS FOR PERSONAL PRAYER AND REFLECTION**

Take a moment to reflect on today’s message, or a hymn during the service. Following the announcements, feel free to stick around and join us for a time of fellowship.

Our Week with the Lord: February 18—February 25, 2017

Today:  Worship..............................................................................................................9:00 AM
          Family Bible Hour.........................................................................................10:20 AM
          No Confirmation Class......................................................................................Winter Break
Tuesday: Mornings with Mommy..............................................................................10:00 AM
          Building Meeting..............................................................................................6:30 PM
Wednesday: Lent Worship Service.........................................................................6:30 PM
Thursday: Starting Point Class..................................................................................6:30 PM
Sunday:  Worship w/Lord’s Supper..........................................................................9:00 AM
          Family Bible Hour............................................................................................10:20 AM
          Confirmation Class............................................................................................11:30 AM

Today’s Lesson: Ruth Believes in God

Next Week: Trivia Sunday

Memory Treasure: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Matthew 22:37
What does it mean to be a Lutheran Christian? To be a Lutheran Christian means to base all our teachings on the Bible. This morning we will continue looking at 12 important biblical teachings that are still just as true and relevant for us today. Join us as we explore these timeless truths.

Meeting this Tuesday @ 6:30 PM
During the season of Lent we are confronted with the harsh realities of our sins. Sin is what brings so many awful consequences into our lives. Sin is what enslaves us and brings pain and eventual death to all people. In order to free us from the power of sin, Jesus became just like us. He did that to rescue us and make us his very own.

In this new series, we will get a closer look at everything Jesus endured to save us.

- **Today**—Our Temptation
- **Next Week**—Our Guilt
- **March 4**—Our Weakness
- **March 11**—Our Suffering
- **March 18**—Our Sorrow

**Sundays @ 9:00 AM**
During that first Holy Week, Jesus' disciples were under siege. They were tempted and often failed by sinning against Jesus in various ways. Like those disciples, we, too, are under siege and tempted by so many things. All too often we have failed and sinned against our Jesus too. Thankfully, Jesus forgives those sins and helps us overcome all things.

*Join us this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.*

Pastor Tom Glende—Mark Flees  
2.28.18—Pastor Phil Kiecker—Thomas is Confused  
3.7.18—Pastor Doug—Judas Betrays  
3.14.18—Pastor Tom Glende—John Remains Silent  
3.21.18—Pastor Phil Kiecker—Peter Denies
Flu season is upon us! This inevitably brings vacant spots for Mornings with Mommy. If you missed out on registration in December, this is your best opportunity to attend a session! Go to the Mornings with Mommy page at www.welsalc.com to sign up for any of the waitlists available. Stay healthy and we hope to see you soon at an upcoming session!

Just as a reminder for all of the women who will or want to participate in the 2018 Women’s Bible Study. Please make sure that you have the new study book “Living a Chocolate Life” by Deb Burma by March 1st. The first Bible Study will be taught by Colleen Kemp on March 9th at 7 pm. Please, RSVP to Colleen by March 4 so she can plan accordingly.

Also, you are invited to a ladies night out on February 23 beginning at 7 p.m. at NorthStar Café on Western Boulevard. Bring a friend and come out for a relaxing night of beverages and conversation with your fellow sisters in Christ.
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

As we transition from a small church to a medium size church, we understand the importance of reviewing our constitution and bylaws to ensure we are good stewards of God's blessings. The council is looking for members (male and female) to provide input on this endeavor. Zachary Hare is the point of contact for the review. Please, prayerfully consider assisting and let Zach know if you would like to participate. We would like to complete this task by June.

WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE!

Music
This Sunday:  Carson Schmitt

Ushers
This Sunday:  Need Help  Next Sunday:  Zach HAre

Sunday School Teachers
This Sunday:  PreK—K—Tami Beckes  1st-4th—Pat Werrell
              5th-8th—Craig Lokensgard
Next Sunday:  Trivia Sunday—All Teachers

Last Week Attendance
Worship:  80  Bible Class:  29  Sunday School:  31
Thank You for Worshipping with Us!
MISSION STATEMENT
As a family of believers in our Savior Jesus Christ, we proclaim the Gospel in Word and sacrament to gather souls, nurture believers, and encourage Christian living within our community and throughout the world.

Ascension is a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We invite you to visit our congregation’s website (www.welsalc.com) or our synod’s website (www.wels.net) for more information about our locations, beliefs, and practices.

Our Regular Sunday Morning Schedule:
Sunday Morning Worship — 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School — 10:20 a.m.
Bible Class — 10:20 a.m.