



## Our God is...Holy

One of the enduring memories of Chicago Cub fans is the late announcer Harry Cary. "Holy cow!" used to be one of his favorite sayings.

We usually say, "Holy cow!" to express our surprise—not to point to a cow that is particularly well behaved. Cows can be big. Some people even may think they are pretty. But holy?

God expects *people* to be holy. He demands, "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:2).

Holy means sinless/perfect. Think about playing Little League baseball. Imagine your coach telling you that you have to get a hit every time you go up to bat, or you will be punished and never play again. That's impossible. Not even Christian Yelich can do that!

How can a *loving* God demand that we be holy? How can he say that if we sin just one time we deserve to go to hell? Isn't that cruel? Why does God demand the impossible.

We can't be sinless, but there is someone who was. That's Jesus.

The Bible says, "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22).

God gives us even better news! "God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Righteous means holy. God tells us that Jesus became sinful for us.

How do we become righteous/holy? "No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." (Romans 3:20-22).

God credits holiness to all who believe in Jesus as the one who saved them from their sins.

What God demands; he provides! Everyone who believes in Jesus is considered perfect by God! Holy cow!

## WELS NEWS

March, 2021

With The Lord

Rev. John Moldstad, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), was suddenly and unexpectedly called to his heavenly home last Friday from an apparent heart attack.

President Moldstad was my classmate and friend, and he has been the president of our sister synod throughout my time as WELS synod president. John was one of the most self-effacing and humble men I have ever known. He loved to tell jokes, often making himself the object of his humor. More important, President Moldstad was a strong defender and promoter of confessional Lutheranism and the teachings of the Scriptures. All who knew him would agree that he was a man with a pastor's heart.

Our entire synod extends condolences to his wife, Joslyn; to the Moldstad family; and to our brothers and sisters in the ELS. But even in a time of painful loss, we join with them in praising our gracious God for taking another faithful believer to his Savior's side, where he now knows the perfect joy and peace that Christ won for us and all believers.

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder

### Rev. John Moldstad Obituary

Rev. John Arthur Moldstad Jr., 66, of Madison Lake, Minn., was called to his heavenly home unexpectedly on Fri., Jan. 29, 2021. He died with the sure hope of eternal life through his Savior Jesus Christ, who promised, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies" (John 11:25).

He was born April 6, 1954, in Bagley, Minn., to Rev. John, Sr. and Gudrun (Madson) Moldstad. He was baptized the same day by his father in the hospital and was confirmed at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minn.

He studied at Bethany Lutheran High School in Mankato for one year before transferring to Martin Luther Academy in New Ulm, Minn., where he met his future wife, Joslyn Marie Wiechmann. John went on to study at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato; Northwestern College in Watertown, Wis.; and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in Mankato. He later completed a Master of Sacred Theology at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wis.

John married his high school sweetheart, Joslyn, on July 30, 1977. Their union was blessed with 7 children and 14 grandchildren. He and Joslyn recently moved to their new home on Lake Washington, where they planned to retire. They enjoyed many wonderful memories with their children and grandchildren at the lake.

John was a third generation pastor, serving first as vicar at Bethany Lutheran Church in Princeton, Minn., and then as pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, S.D.; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; and Faith Lutheran Church in Oregon, Wis. In 1994 he was called to serve as New Testament professor at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. In 2002 he was called to serve as the president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a role in which he served until his death. It was his fervent desire that all come to know their Savior Jesus Christ that through Him they may have forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

John was preceded in death by his mother, Gudrun, and three infant siblings. He is survived by his wife, Joslyn; his father, John Sr. (June); his brother, Rev. Donald (Gina); his sister, Lois Fick (Paul); his children, Rachel Renee, John Andrew (Amanda), Rev. Matthew James (Joni), Michael John (Annie), Andrea Elizabeth Hopkins (Kyle), Joshua Ryan (Rachel), and Brittany Rachelle Cordes (Tony); and 14 grandchildren, with 2 more on the way.

John was an active member of Peace Lutheran Church in North Mankato, where a funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 6, 2021. The committal will immediately follow at Norseland Lutheran Cemetery in St. Peter, Minn. Visitations will be held at Peace Lutheran Church on Fri., Feb. 5, from 4 to 7 p.m. and on Sat., Feb. 6, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The service will be livestreamed and can be viewed at [www.peacemankato.com](http://www.peacemankato.com)

### **New Opportunities To Offer Pandemic Relief**

WELS Christian Aid and Relief has set aside \$200,000 to help WELS congregations offer pandemic relief to their communities. Congregations can receive up to \$2,500 in matching grant money to provide aid to those who are struggling in their neighborhoods.

“Like no other time in most of our lives, people are hurting—both in our churches and in our communities. And we can help them,” says Rev. Daniel Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. “God has blessed us with an abundance of daily bread and with the good news of the Bread of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a tremendous opportunity to bring relief to those struggling during this challenging time.”

WELS Christian Aid and Relief already has distributed pandemic relief funding this year when it teamed up with WELS Home Missions to offer more than \$160,000 in matching grant money to 24 mission congregations.

These home missions were creative with their ideas, offering plans to provide food and supplies to families in need and counseling and support groups for those struggling with their mental health. Many are partnering with other community organizations, working closely with local homeless shelters and schools in their area.

“We’re glad this grant program came up—not only for the resources—but just to spur us on to come up with an idea to help our community,” says Mr. Mark Hartman, lay member at Hope in the Heights, a home mission in Houston, Texas, that received one of the grants.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief will offer these new matching grants to congregations until June 1 or when designated funds run out.

“What an opportunity to shine the light of Christ’s love into our communities,” says Sims. “May God bless our efforts in his saving name.”

Learn more about WELS Christian Aid and Relief and these grant opportunities at [wels.net/relief](http://wels.net/relief).

### **Marriage Maintenance**

There’s a reason you check the tires, oil, and vital fluids of your vehicle. Lack of attention can lead to unwanted wear and tear and unexpected repairs down the road.

Marriages need maintenance too. How many breakdowns in love, communication, kindness, and patience could have been avoided if a couple invested a little more time in dealing with them instead of ignoring them?

“Marriage Maintenance” are online Bible studies to help couples as they deal with common issues that cause marital wear and tear. Each study is introduced with a short lead-in video that sets up the topic followed by an activity to put it into practice. The resource asks for a couple’s commitment of time to further their conversation based on God’s Word (study) and for direct marriage application (personal discussion).

Maintaining your vehicle will keep it running for a long time. May God bless this Bible-based resource to help you handle the blessed miles of your marriage for years to come!