Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.
But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS, CHAPTER FIVE; VERSES SEVEN AND EIGHT

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 7 / 8, 2026

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com
507-217-6364 Cell

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
Email: stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com
facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
507-354-6744

Pastor Rob Guenther
pastorguenther@gmail.com
507-240-2433 Cell

YouTube
bit.ly/SJyoutube

Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
March 7/8, 2026

Welcome, Visitors! Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Gracious and loving heavenly Father, you did not spare your only Son but gave him up for sinners such as we. Nothing we have done or can do could ever earn for us the blessings you have bestowed on this fallen human race. For this we praise and thank you. Accept now, our worship and praise in the name of the One who lived and died to redeem us and reconcile us you, dear Lord. Amen.

ORDER OF WORSHIP ***Service of the Word***

OPENING HYMN ***How Deep the Father's Love for Us*** CW 523

1 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.

2 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.

3 I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow'r, 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.

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.

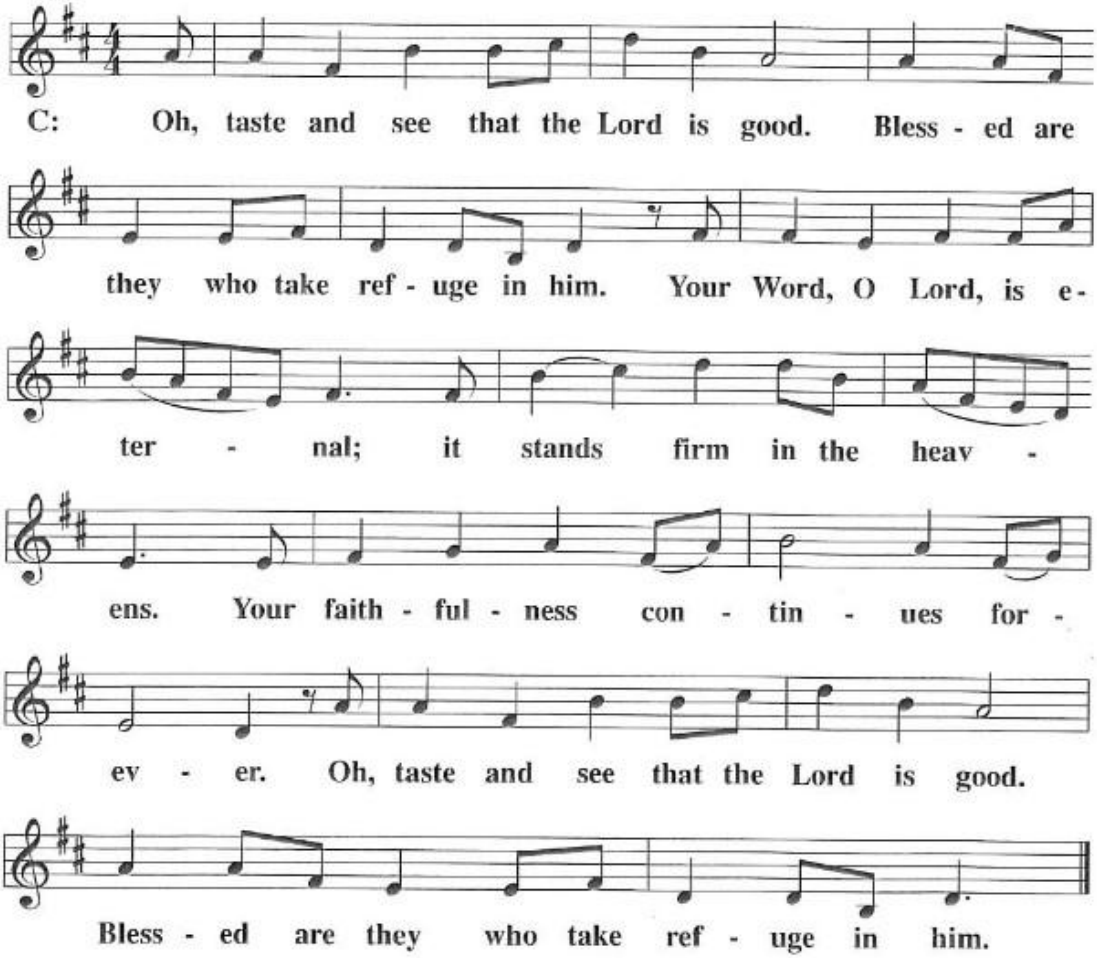
C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

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.

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

OH, TASTE AND SEE



Let us pray.
O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Be seated

ANTHEM 6:30pm ***Jesus Loves Even Me*** arr. Philip P. Bliss

I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me.
I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves even me.

I know that Jesus takes care of me, takes care of me, takes care of me,
I know that Jesus takes care of me, takes care of even me.

I know that Jesus died on the cross, died on the cross, died on the cross.
I know that Jesus died on the cross. He died even for me.

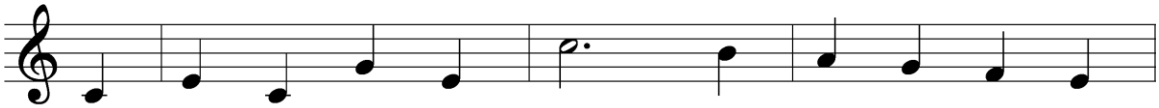
Text stanzas 2,3 © 2004 Northwestern Publishing House.

FIRST LESSON Exodus 17:1-7

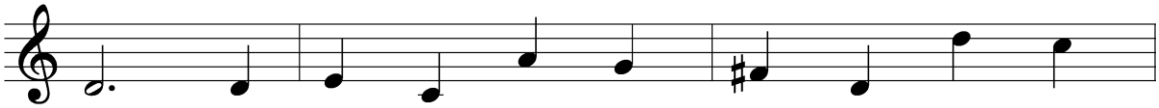
1 The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin,
traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at
Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 So they quarreled
with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."
Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the
Lord to the test?"
3 But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled
against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us
and our children and livestock die of thirst?"
4 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these
people? They are almost ready to stone me."
5 The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with
you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which
you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will stand there before you by the rock at
Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink."
So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the
place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they
tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

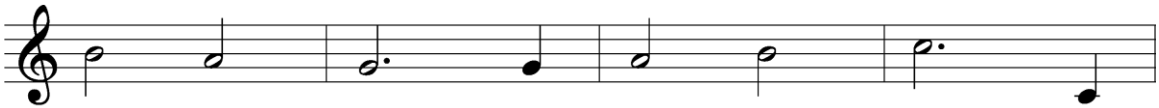
PSALM OF THE DAY ***Come, Let Us Praise the LORD*** Psalm 95C



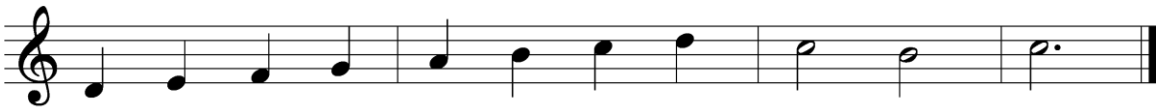
1 Come, let us praise the LORD, with joy our God ac -
2 Our God of match - less worth, our King be - yond com -
3 In wor - ship bow the knee, our glo - rious God con -
4 Come, hear his voice to - day, re - ceive what love im -



claim, his great - ness tell a - broad and bless his
pare, the deep - est bounds of earth, the hills, are
fess; the great Cre - a - tor, he, the LORD our
parts; his ho - ly will o - bey and hard - en



sav - ing name. Lift high your songs be -
in his care. He all de - crees, who
Right - eous - ness. He reigns un - seen: his
not your hearts. His ways are best and



fore his throne to whom a - lone all praise be - longs.
by his hand pre - pared the land and formed the seas.
flock he feeds and gent - ly leads in pas - tures green.
lead at last, all trou - bles past, to per - fect rest.

SECOND LESSON Romans 5:1-8

[1] Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace
with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, [2] through whom we have gained
access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the
hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings,
because we know that suffering produces perseverance; [4] perseverance,
character; and character, hope. [5] And hope does not put us to shame, because
God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who
has been given to us.

[6] You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died
for the ungodly. [7] Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though
for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. [8] But God
demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ
died for us.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL John 4:5-26

[5] So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground
Jacob had given to his son Joseph. [6] Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired
as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

[7] When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will
you give me a drink?" [8] (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

[9] The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan
woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with
Samaritans.)

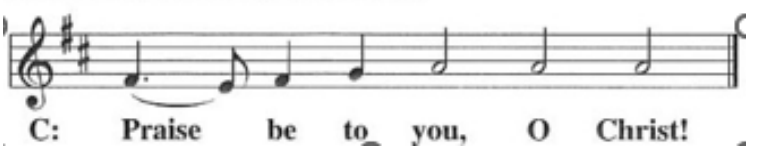
[10] Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks
you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you
living water."

[11] "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is
deep. Where can you get this living water? [12] Are you greater than our father

Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons
and his livestock?”
13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,
14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the
water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to
eternal life.”
15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get
thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”
16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”
17 “I have no husband,” she replied.
Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband.
18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not
your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”
19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our
ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place
where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”
21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will
worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You
Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know,
for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come
when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth,
for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his
worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”
25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming.
When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”
26 Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY ***I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*** CW 703

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto me; your morn shall rise and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

SERMON God Demonstrates His Love Romans 5:1-8

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

Be seated

OFFERING

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated

HYMN ***O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace*** CW 591

1 O Holy Spirit, grant us grace that we our Lord and Savior
in faith and fervent love embrace and truly serve him ever,
so that when death is near at hand we at his cross may firmly stand
and there find our salvation.

2 Help us that we your saving Word in faithful hearts may treasure;
let e'er that bread of life afford new grace in richest measure.
Make us to die to ev'ry sin; each day create us new within
that fruits of faith may flourish.

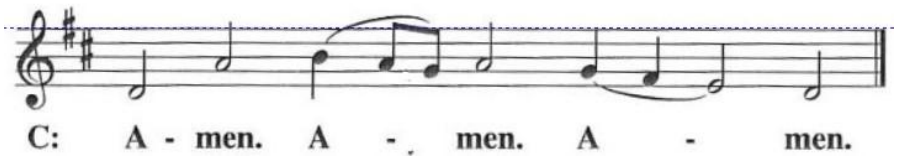
3 Then when our earthly race is run, death's bitter hour impending,
may your good work in us begun continue till life's ending,
until we gladly may commend our souls into our Savior's hand
to rest in peace eternal.

Stand

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.

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.



CLOSING HYMN ***Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*** CW 927

1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.
Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration for the gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound!
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

3 So whene'er the signal's given us from earth to call away,
borne on angels' wings to heaven, glad the summons to obey,
may we ever, may we ever reign with Christ in endless day.

PREACHER	Pastor Jeff Bovee
PRESIDING MINISTER	Pastor Rob Guenther
ORGANIST	Jacob Behnken
PRESCHOOL- KINDERGARTEN	Heidi Meyer

Givelify Scan the QR code to use the Givelify app and donate your offering.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 pm	Sunday School & Bible Class – One by One
Monday	11:30 am	OWLS Meeting
	6 pm	Board of Evangelism
	7 pm	Board of Youth and Ed.
Tuesday	6 pm	Sunday School Meeting
Wednesday	11 am	Lenten Worship Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	5 pm	Midweek Lenten Meal
	5:15 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Bible Class – The Life of David
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Mar. 15th	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 pm	Sunday School & Bible Class – Shark Tank
Tuesday, Mar. 17th	4 pm	Oak Hills Worship
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 18th	11 am	Lenten Worship Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	5 pm	Midweek Lenten Meal
	5:15 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7:15 pm	Choir
Thursday, Mar. 19th	10 am	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Bible Class – The Life of David
Saturday, Mar. 21st	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 567 with 458 receiving the Lord's Supper.

Fruits of Faith:

$12,803 Home Operations ~ Needed: $155,065/ YTD: $148,647
$1,749 WELS Missions ~ YTD: $14,588 (2026 Goal: $100,701)
$1,022 MVL ~ YTD: $9,887 (2026 Goal: $62,278)
$25 Wish List: Piano ~ YTD: $18,215 ($21,400)
$520 Building Fund
$232 Food + Fellowship
$510 K-12 Education Assistance
$20 LWMS
$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund
$200 Technology Equipment

Easter for Kids 2026! ~ Join us on Saturday, March 28th, 2026, from 8:30 am - 11:00 am here at St. John's for our annual Easter for Kids! A bible study, crafts, music, and more will be offered for Preschool through 4th grade. Sign up your children using the following link or by scanning the QR code. We hope to see many of you there! If you have any questions, please contact Ella Hunter at: ehunter02@icloud.com or 507-766-3658.

Cards of Caring ~ Members of St. John's are invited to help make cards we give to congregation members — homebound, elderly, and others. We use donated, recycled, and create our own cards. Cards to be made include Valentine, Warm Winter Wishes, Easter, Confirmation, and Birthday. Help is needed with writing messages, stamping, and assembling cards. Please join us at 403 N. Minnesota St. between 9:00am and noon on Saturday, March 21st. Come and go as your schedule allows. Thank you for helping to serve our members. Contact: Lois Willems (507-676-1230).

Grand Piano on the Wish List ~ St. John's Worship Committee would like to replace the piano in the front of the church. The existing piano was not designed for a large space seating 350 people, but for a house or small music studio. The council has approved that a new 5-foot Yamaha grand piano (to be placed in the front of the sanctuary near the lectern) be added to the wish list. This piano would enrich our worship as it fills the church with sound. It's known for its stability of tuning and action and delivers a clear sound that would accompany the congregation and choirs well. The cost is approximately $21,400 for the piano, delivery and installation, and all needed accessories. If you are interested in contributing to this worship enhancement, please note "Piano" on your offering envelope or electronic gift. To God be the glory!

Church Cleaning ~ An indoor/outdoor work day is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th from 9-11 a.m. It is a come and go event. Men, women and children are needed. For the outdoor work garden rakes, wheelbarrows, and shovels will be needed; please bring what you can. Many hands make light work! All cleaning supplies will be provided. Questions? Contact Sarah Logston (507-766-6455) or Mikal Schwark (507-304-3121).

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Ulm Food Shelf ~ St. John's is sponsoring a food drive for the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf during March. The New Ulm Food Shelf serves people in New Ulm, Lafayette, Hanska, Searles, Essig, and Courtland. We are collecting monetary donations and non-perishable food items (See the poster in the Narthex for ideas of what to donate). Place food items in the boxes in the narthex and monetary donations in a clearly marked envelope in the offering plate (if you write a check, please make it payable to the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf) by Sunday, March 29. For questions, contact Deb Beatty (507-276-2722) or Carla Melendy (507-217-9750).

WELS Group Tour to the Ark+ ~ Father's World Tours and the OWLS (WELS Seniors Group) invite W/ELS members of all ages to join us for an April 17-26 trip to the beautiful Bluegrass State of Kentucky. Our deluxe motorcoach originates in MN and continues through WI with free parking and pickups offered at WELS churches/schools in New Ulm, Mankato, Rochester, LaCrosse, and Madison. You can also opt to start and end in Brookfield/Milwaukee (April 18-25). Highlights include daily devotions, weekend worship, visits to the Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, Cumberland Falls, Old Friends (horse farm), Keeneland (horse racing), and much more. All meals are also included! Don't delay. Registration closes at midnight on the ides of March (3/15).
Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact Steve Balza at 507-217-1731 for more information or to register.

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm on Monday, March 9. Fellowship begins at 11:30 AM with a Subway meal at noon, the cost covered by Thrivent Action Team moneys. Following a devotion, Sid and Jan DeLeo will present "The Orphan Train." If you have not already signed up, contact Myron Fluegge at 507-359-2424
or flueggemtj@hotmail.com by Wednesday noon, March 4, for a meal count. Hope you can make it.

MVL Concert ~ The MVL Music Department invites you to its annual Spring Sacred Concert on Wednesday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the MVL Fine Arts Center. This year's program, themed What Wondrous Love, will celebrate the Lent and Easter seasons with performances by the A Cappella Choir, Freshmen Choir, MVL Chargaliers, and the Symphonic Band. A freewill offering will be collected.

MVL to Recognize Service in the Ministry ~ In conjunction with the Spring Sacred Concert on Wednesday, April 1, Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School will give thanks to God for Mrs. Rebecca Berg and her forty years of service in the ministry. In addition, MVL will also recognize with appreciation the ministry of Mr. Rollin Timm and Mr. Craig Morgan as they retire from their service at the close of this current school year. The concert will begin at 7:00 in the Fine Arts Center at MVL, and this recognition will take place during the concert. Following the concert, there will be a reception in the Activities Commons. All are invited to attend.

Raider Choir Musical ~ St. Paul's Lutheran School Raider Choir invites you to come to their performance of the musical, *Jitterbug Juliet,* on March 13 & 14 at 7:00PM. Enter the world of post-war 1940s where the jitterbug meets Shakespeare! Set in Venice Beach, the feud between the Montague and Capulet families reaches a head when it is discovered that these enemy clans have double booked the same venue for a jitterbug contest and a performance of the play *Romeo and Juliet*. To make matters worse, a suspicious lawyer with his convict sidekick threaten the success of both family businesses. It's up to Ron (Romeo) and Juliet to settle the feud before all is lost. The musical will be performed in the St. Paul's School gym. Come early! Seats fill quickly.

Gala Committee Seeks Cars for Car Show ~ The St. Paul's School Dig In Gala Committee is seeking owners of 1970s cars to display at our Car Show during the Retro-70's themed Gala on May 8. If you or anyone you know has a car and would be interested, please contact Amy Rich at stampinnut@me.com.

About the Cover ~ Christ on the cross... It is a scene that has been depicted many times and in many ways. We know what happened there. The innocent Son of God took upon himself the sins of the entire human race and paid the debt for their sins. But the most glorious thing about it is that God did not merely say to us, "I love you." Instead, he demonstrated to us by sending his beloved Son to live and die in our place to take away our punishment and impute to us his perfect righteousness.