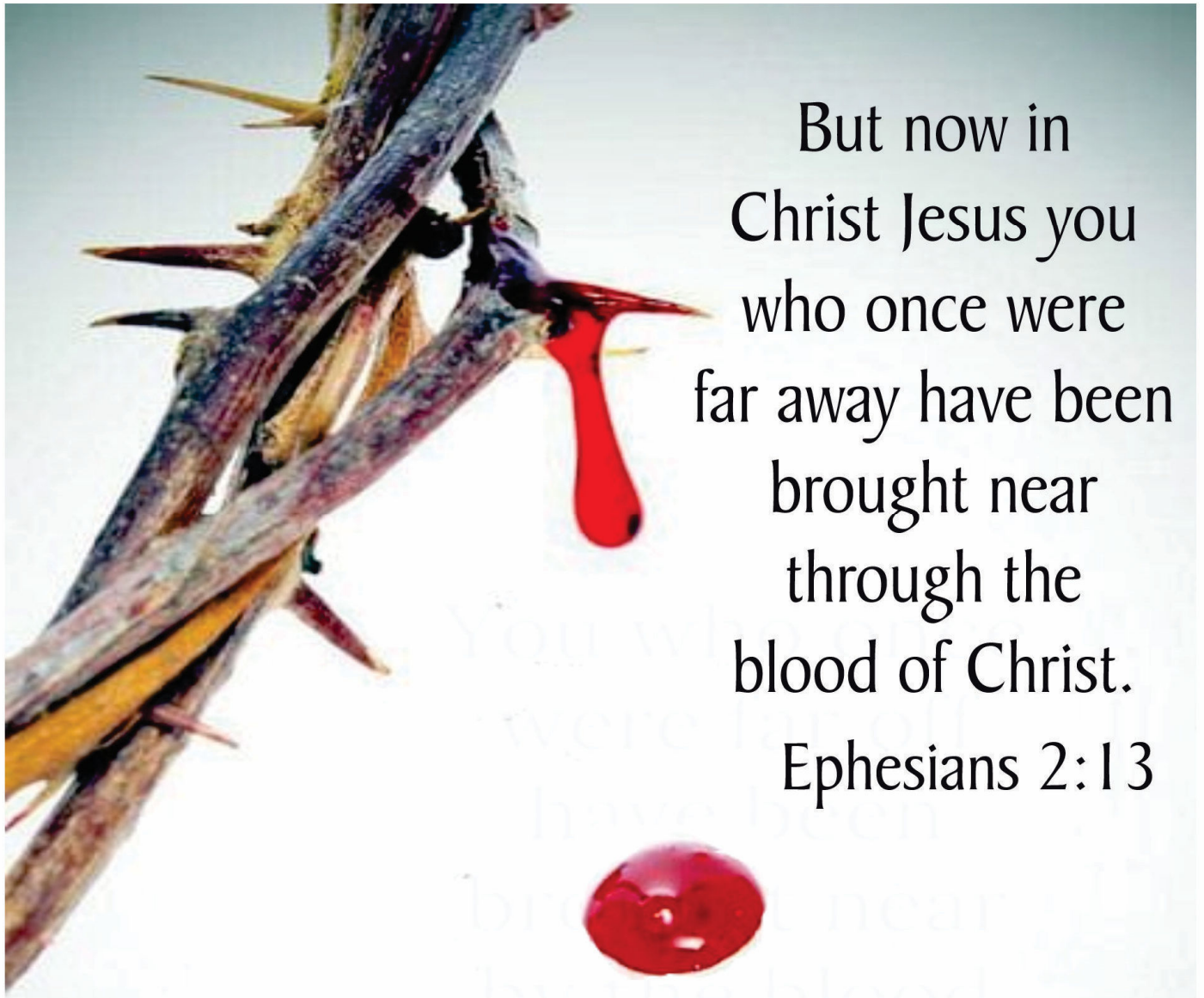




But now in
Christ Jesus you
who once were
far away have been
brought near
through the
blood of Christ.
Ephesians 2:13

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost – August 19 / 20, 2023



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

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street
New Ulm, MN

www.stjohnsnewulm.com

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



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



YouTube

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.

August 19/20, 2023

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Two* page 172

CONFESSION p. 172

¹This is what the LORD says: “Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. ⁶And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant— ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Thanks be to God.

Let the peo - ple praise you, O God, let all the peo - ple praise you.

May God be gracious to us and / bless us
and make his face / shine on us—
so that your ways may be / known on earth,
your salvation among all / nations.

May the peoples / praise you, God;

may all the peoples / praise you.

May the nations be glad and / sing for joy,

for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations / of the earth.

Refrain

The land yields its / harvest;

God, our God, / blesses us.

May God / bless us still,

so that all the ends of the earth will / fear him.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2:13–22

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far a - way

have been brought near by the blood of Christ. *Refrain*

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21–28

²¹Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

²³Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

²⁵The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

²⁶He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

²⁷“Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

²⁸Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY *The Church’s One Foundation*

CW855

SERMON

Ephesians 2:13-22

Near and Far

I. Brought Near to God

II. Brought Near to Each Other

NICENE CREED

p. 180

OFFERING/ COMMUNION

If you are not a member of a WELS/ELS congregation, please see the explanation below.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

CW670

PRAYERS (*Contemporary*) **and BLESSING**

p. 187

† † †

PREACHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGAN

Pastor Rob Guenther

Pastor Jeff Bovee

Pastor Jacob Behnken

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the QR code to
sign our Guest Register.



Offering Announcement ~ Visitors, there is no obligation or expectation that you should give to support our ministry at St. John's. This is our members' way of expressing their thanks to God and supporting the work that we do to share the Gospel in New Ulm and around the world. Members, you are invited to give your gifts of gratitude and thanks to God for all he's done for you in Christ by leaving your offerings in the drop box in the narthex. Or you can bring your offerings to the church during regular office hours: Mondays through Fridays, 8 am - 1 pm. You might also consider taking advantage of your bank's online bill pay service and have your offering automatically sent to the church on a one time or recurring basis.

Communion Announcement: At St. John's we practice "close communion." That is, we invite only those who are in fellowship with us as members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church (or of a synod that is in fellowship with us) to commune with us. We are in no way judging your personal faith. But we recognize that in the Lord's Supper we enjoy not only a close communion, or fellowship, with God, but we also enjoy a close communion with one another as we publicly express our agreement in every teaching of God's Word. And we wouldn't presume to ask you to publicly confess your agreement with all that we teach and believe without first being instructed in what it is that we teach and believe. But if you do desire to commune with us, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Mon	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Fri	9 am	Summer Fellowship at Nature Playground at Flandrau
Sat	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 27	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	1:30 pm	MVL Opening Service
Aug 30	10 am	Catechism
Sep 2	3 pm	Brase Wedding Reaffirmation
	6:30 pm	Worship
Sep 3	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Sep 5	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6 pm	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Sep 6	10 am	Catechism
	1 pm	Stewardship Meeting
	6 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
	7 pm	Choir
Sep 7	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Sep 8	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
Sep 9	8 am	Trustees Meeting
	5 pm	Summer Send-Off at St. Paul's School
	6:30 pm	Worship
Sep 10	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	8 am	Sunday School Teacher Installation
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Heart in Focus
	3 pm	75th Anniversary Organ Recital
Sep 11	11:30 am	OWLS Meeting
	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Sep 13	10 am	Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir

Go to www.stjohnsnewulm.com/calendar for more events

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 388.

Fruits of faith given:

\$12,309	Home Operations ~ \$19,371 is our weekly need		
\$684	MVL ~ \$1,278 is our weekly need	\$10	Kitchen Fund
\$1,764	Missions ~ \$1,818 is our weekly need	\$75	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$239	Building Fund	\$10	LWMS
\$500	Ministerial Education Endowment	\$245	Sanctuary Renovation

Vacation Bible School (VBS) ~ thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event a huge success!

Volunteer Opportunities ~ The St. John's Board of Evangelism is looking for volunteers who are willing and able to help in a few roles in our Fellowship and Outreach efforts.

Fellowship Activities. This could be one or more people depending upon the volunteer(s) comfort level and schedule availability. The three areas we're looking for help with are:

Fellowship Coordinator: Leads the Fellowship Committee and coordinates our fellowship activities and events - which include the two other roles below.

Bible class coffee and treats: The main tasks are coordinating volunteers to make coffee each week, managing the sign-up for volunteers to bring treats, and placing an order once a month when St. John's hosts the treats.

Fellowship events: The main tasks for this are reserving locations, coordinating food as needed, and being the liaison with non-St. John's parties. These events include things like the annual church picnic, church campout, swimming event, and Flandrau fellowship.

Audio Visual Team. This team assists with the streaming St. John's worship on YouTube and handle about one service per month in the 8am Sunday service. The work involves arriving about fifteen minutes early and wrapping up briefly after the morning's final hymn. Some folks prefer to work with a partner, others choose to fly solo. The current staff is generous about swapping and substituting for one another when there are schedule conflicts.

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities to serve or have questions about any of them, please reach out to Jesse Zahrt: evangelism@stjohnsnewulm.com

Women of St. John's ~ Calling all avid readers! Our September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5th at 7 pm in the church basement. Please bring a book or two that you would recommend to others (or at least title and author). We will also have a brief meeting.

Cards of Caring ~ As our fall schedules resume, it is time to think about making cards for our homebound and thinking-of-you members. We also include our three LWMS Befriend a Mission families. We will focus on making Thanksgiving and Christmas cards. All supplies are furnished. If you can't create cards, we have other simple tasks you can do. We welcome those from seventh grade and older, including MLC students. Our first date is Saturday, September 16, 2023. We meet from 9 am until noon. Come as your schedule allows. See you at 403 N. Minnesota St. (across from the Glockenspiel). This is an opportunity for fellowship and service to the Lord. Contact Lois Willems at 507-676-1230 with questions.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Organ Recital ~ On Sunday, August 27 at 3 pm, Professors Craig Hirschmann and Jacob Behnken will be presenting an organ recital at the MLC Chapel of the Christ. Works will include pieces by Walther, Pachelbel, Rheinberger, Alain, Bach, Mendelssohn, and Duruflé. All are welcome!

Summer Send-Off at St. Paul's School ~ Join us for Summer Send-off on Saturday, September 9th from 5 - 7 pm! John and Paul Ministries will say goodbye to summer with complimentary food, bounce houses, games, outdoor worship, and the best seats on the school grounds for the HermannFest fireworks! See you then and bring a friend! Many helpful hands and friendly faces are needed to run an outreach event! Please sign up at johnandpaulministries.com to volunteer! Questions? Contact Beth Scharf at scharfbm@mlc-wels.edu.

St. Paul's School ~ During the 2022-2023 school year, St. Paul's School received \$654.25 from reward and label programs that we participate in. The money gets deposited in our School Reserve Fund. We currently collect Hy-Vee UPC labels, Country Hearth, Village Hearth, Artisan Hearth Bread labels, and Fiber Up product labels. We encourage families to save the labels and bring them to school or to church. Deposit the labels in the appropriately marked receptacles. We also participate in online programs for BoxTops, Cash Wise Rewards, and Casey's Rewards. Just log onto their websites, sign up, and start saving for St. Paul's School!

Job Openings ~ Assistant head cook needed at St Paul's Lutheran School. Job duties include but are not limited to preparing & serving lunch and clean up. If interested please pick up an application at St Paul's school or church office. If you have questions please feel free to contact me at cook@splnewulm.org.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School is in need of bus drivers. If you are interested in becoming a bus driver for the 2023-2024 school year, contact Ray Vulcan at rayv@palmerbusservice.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive ~ The blood drive will be at the New Ulm Community Civic Center, 1212 N. Franklin St., on Wednesday, August 23, 1-7 pm, Thursday, August 24, 12-6 pm, and Friday, August 25, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: New Ulm to schedule an appointment.

About the Cover~ We were once far away from God because of our rebellion and sin. But in his great love for us, he sent his own Son, Jesus, to draw near to us, to live and die for us, to bring us close to God. We have been brought near to God by the blood of Christ. Now, reconciled with God, he enables us to be reconciled to each other as the barriers that once divided us fall away. May God continue to keep us close to him and to build the unity of faith that we share!