

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 29/30, 2023

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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

Prayer before worship: God, forgive us for the times that we've wished for selfish things and for the times we've sinfully chased them. Thank you for giving us true wisdom in Christ who lived a perfect life in our place and died an innocent death on the cross. Now, help us to live for him and grant us the wisdom to do so. Give us discerning hearts to serve your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Three* page 188

OPENING HYMN *All Depends on Our Possessing*

CW807

CONFESSION

p. 189

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 3:5–12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

⁷“Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹²I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 63

Congregation sings refrains; Cantor sings verses

SECOND LESSON

1 Timothy 6:17–21

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

²⁰Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ²¹which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

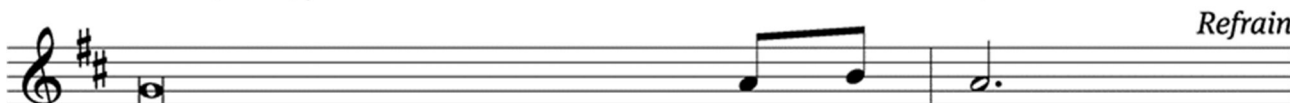
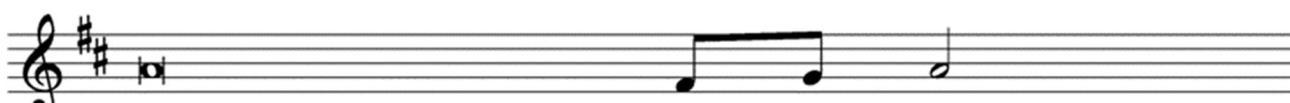
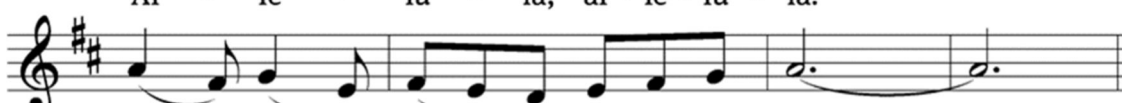
Grace be with you all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain



Refrain

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44–52

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate

the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵²He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY *Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure* **CW859**

SERMON

1 Kings 3:5-12

Give Your Servant a Discerning Heart!

APOSTLES' CREED

p. 197

OFFERING

see announcement

HYMN

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

CW823

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

p. 171

CLOSING HYMN *Take the World, but Give Me Jesus*

CW699

† † †

PREACHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGAN

VIOLIN

GUITAR

CANTOR

Pastor Rob Guenther

Pastor Jeff Bovee

Craig Hirschmann

Alan Uher

Ben Strackbein

Saturday: Brian Hennig

Sunday: Jon Hermanson

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the QR code to
sign our Guest Register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
	6:45 pm	Softball Game at Harman Park
Wed	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Fri	9 am	Summer Fellowship at North Park
Sat		NO Saturday Worship

† **Upcoming Services: 75th Anniversary Weekend** †

Saturday: NO Saturday Service
Sunday: 8 & 10 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 6	8 & 10 am	Worship
	12 pm	Anniversary Meal at MLC
	3:30 pm	Softball Tournament
Aug 7	1 pm	Stewardship Meeting
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Aug 8	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	4:30 pm	75th Anniversary Meeting
Aug 11	9 am	Summer Fellowship at Harman Park
Aug 12	6:30 pm	Worship
Aug 13	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
Aug 14	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Aug 15	9 am	VBS
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Aug 16	9 am	VBS
Aug 17	9 am	VBS
	11:30 pm	Potluck Meal
Aug 18	9 am	Summer Fellowship at Highland Park
Aug 19	6:30 pm	Worship
Aug 20	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Aug 21	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Aug 22	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Aug 25	9 am	Summer Fellowship at TBD
Aug 26	6:30 pm	Worship
Aug 27	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	1:30 pm	MVL Opening Service

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 336.

Fruits of faith given:

\$9,821	Home Operations ~ \$19,371 <i>is our weekly need</i>		
\$947	MVL ~ \$1,278 <i>is our weekly need</i>	\$120	MLC Ladies' Auxiliary
\$587	Missions ~ \$1,818 <i>is our weekly need</i>	\$100	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$947	Building Fund	\$300	Ministerial Education
\$1,410	Sanctuary Renovation	\$10	Food & Fellowship

New and Improved Website ~ go to www.stjohnsnewulm.com to see our new and improved church website! We thank Jamie Milbrett for all the time put into making it look great!

Sanctuary Renovation ~ You can see the plans to renovate and thus beautify the sanctuary in the new narthex. This project will replace the flooring in the chancel and its auxiliary rooms and the nave, refinish the pews, replace the pew cushions, provide more handicap seating, designate a space for the handbells, and paint the walls. A member of the Facilities Task Force Committee is at the table with printouts of the layout along with examples of the selected floor tile and the pew fabric. Please stop by and see the renovation plans.

Summer Fellowship in the Park ~ The Friday morning women's Bible study group invites all parents and their children to join them during the summer months for Christian fellowship in the park. We meet at 9 am at the listed park for free play and a picnic lunch (optional). Feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Erika Grundmeier at (989) 529-8729.

August 4 North Park: 1801 N. State St. (Splash Pad available starting later in the morning)

August 11 Harman Park: 101 N. Garden St.

75th Anniversary History Book ~ Sign up for a printed copy of the 80+ page 75th anniversary history book authored by Pastor Emeritus Wayne Laitinen. We are not selling the book, but would like to know how many members would like a printed copy. A free-will offering may be placed in the basket next to the signup sheet to help offset our printing costs (roughly \$6/book). A digital version of the book will be available on the St John's website.

Art Camp and Vacation Bible School (VBS) ~ Art Camp has been CANCELED.

Follow the QR code to register for VBS. Or go to bit.ly/SJvbs2023 (after paying be sure to come back to the registration page to submit the registration).

New This Year ~ There will be a potluck meal following the last day of VBS.

The donation sign up for the meal can be found at bit.ly/SJvbsMeal2023.



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.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 ~ St. Paul's Preschool is looking for After Preschool Care (APC) workers for during the school year, only. APC workers need to be 18 years old or older. One position is on Tues, Wed & Thurs from 3:10 - 6 pm (sometimes done earlier). The same local person could get extra shifts when MLC is on a break during the school year. We could use substitute workers for this program as well. Contact Heidi Meyer at hmeyer@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 12, 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 ~ This painting by the Italian master Luca Giordano (1634-1705) depicts an episode in the life of King Solomon. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and implicitly offered to give him anything he wanted. Solomon asked for wisdom, nothing more, which God graciously granted. May we too seek wisdom from God before wealth or power or fame, that we might bring glory to him in thanks for all that he's done for us in Christ. And God promises that if we ask for wisdom he will grant it to us too.