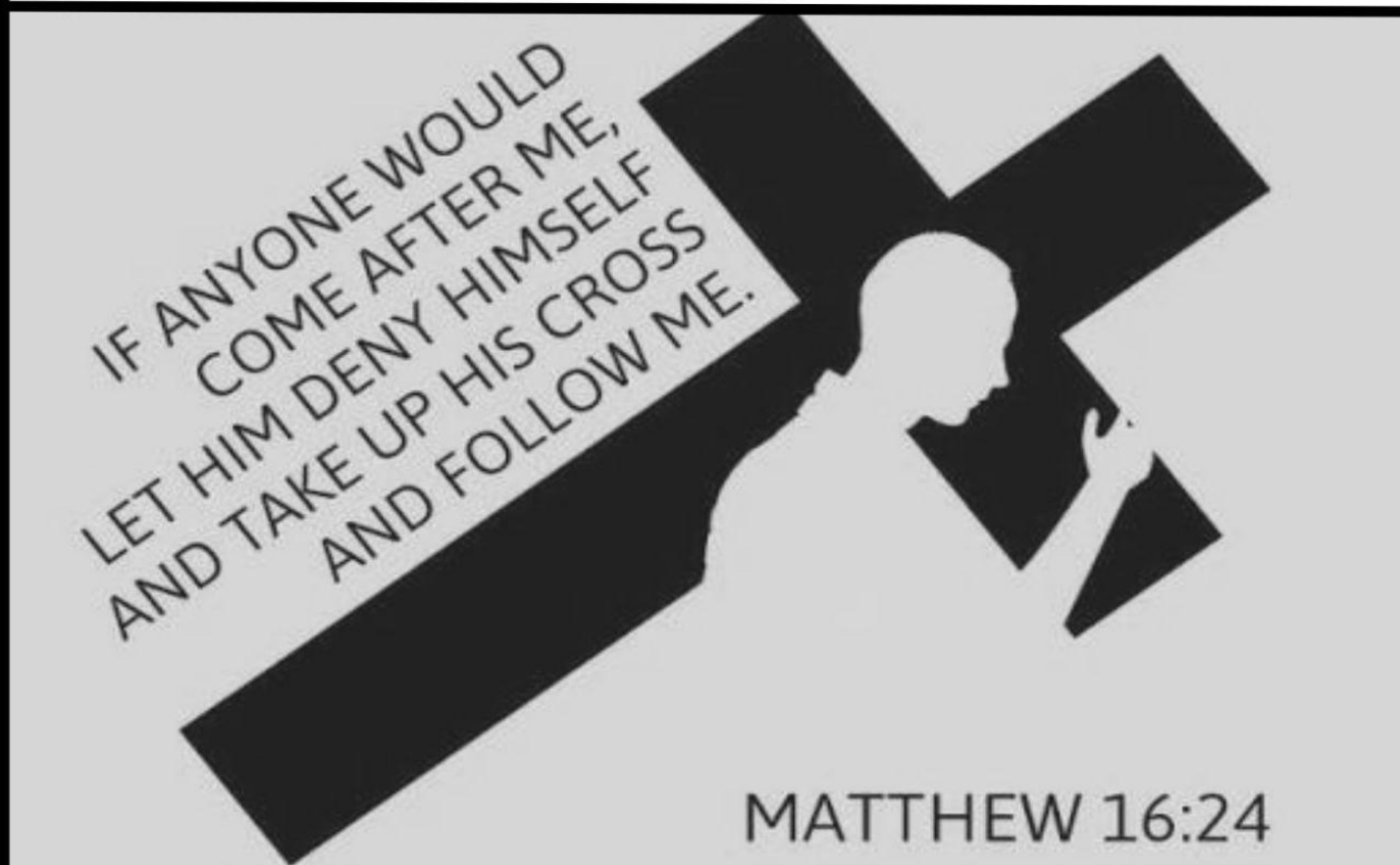


St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 29/30, 2026

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 29/30, 2026

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Dear Jesus, forgive us for the times we've chosen to be comfortable or convenient at the expense of following you. Thank you for denying your own self-interest to take up a cross and die for us, rescuing us. Help us now to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow you. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of the Word

OPENING HYMN *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* CW 621

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing;
Alleluia, alleluia! praise the everlasting King!
- 2 Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless,
Alleluia, alleluia! glorious in his faithfulness!
- 3 Fatherlike he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes;
Alleluia, alleluia! widely yet his mercy flows!
- 4 Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him; all who dwell in time and space,
Alleluia, alleluia! praise with us the God of grace!

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

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

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and so on, ending with a double bar line on the sixth line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of a few notes followed by a double bar line, representing the word 'Amen'.

¹⁵ LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. ¹⁶ When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty. ¹⁷ I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.

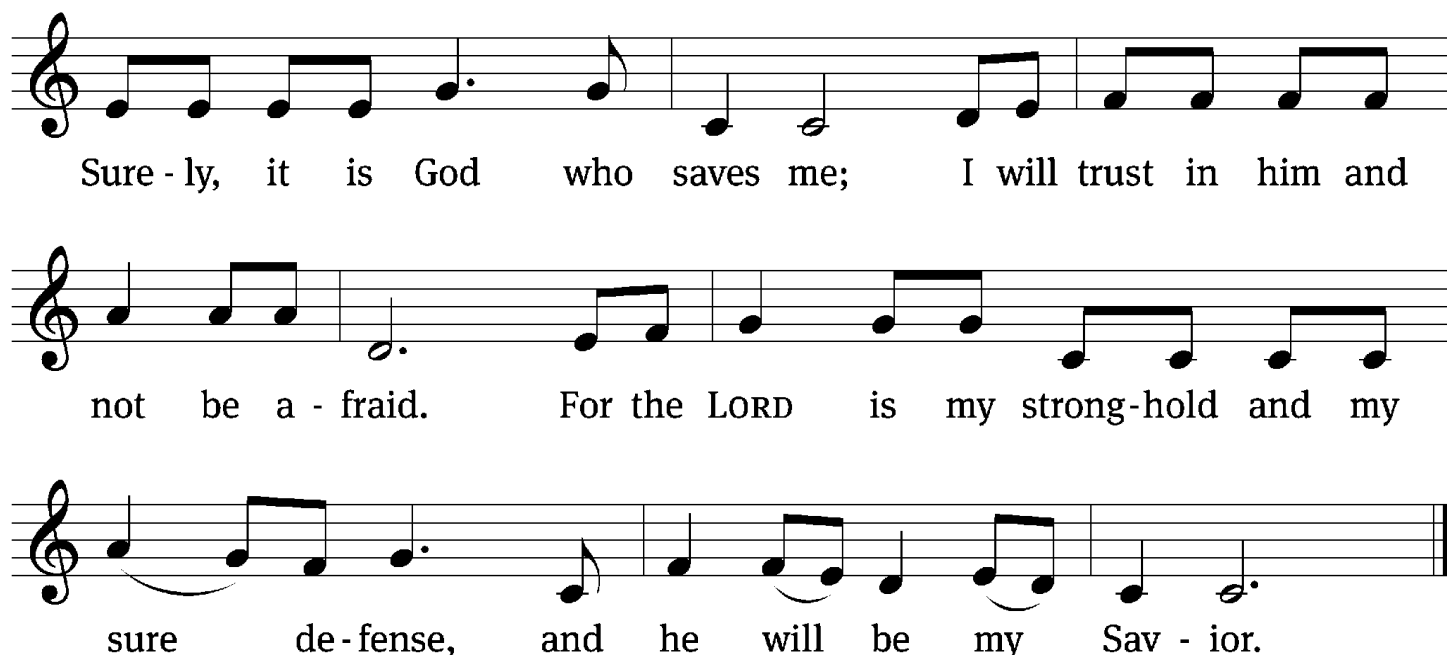
¹⁹ Therefore this is what the LORD says: “If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. ²⁰ I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you,” declares the LORD. ²¹ “I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Surely It Is God Who Saves Me* Psalm 31E

Refrain



Sure - ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the LORD is my strong-hold and my
sure de - fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;
let me never be / put to shame.
Be my rock of / refuge,
a strong fortress to / save me.
Into your hands I commit my / spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my / faithful God. *Refrain*

My times are / in your hands;
save me in your un- / failing love.
How abundant are the / good things
that you have stored up for those who / fear you.
Be strong and / take heart,
all you who hope / in the LORD.
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

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

The Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW 694

- 1 Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow you;
destitute, despised, forsaken, you on earth once suffered, too.
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, all I've ever hoped or known;
yet how rich is my condition, God and heav'n are still my own!
- 2 Let the world despise and leave me; they have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me; you are not, like them, untrue.
And, since you have smiled upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
foes may hate and friends may shun me;
show your face, and all is bright.

- 3 Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!
In your service pain is pleasure, with your favor loss is gain.
I have called you Abba, Father; you my all in all shall be.
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather, all must work for good to me.
- 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glory,
armed by faith and winged by prayer;
all but heav'n is transitory, God's own hand shall guide you there.
Soon shall end this earthly story, swift shall pass the pilgrim days,
hope soon change to heav'nly glory, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

SERMON

Take Up Your Cross!

Matthew 16:21-26

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.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

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

M: 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.

C: 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.

M: 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.

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

M: 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.

C: 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.

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

Silent prayer.

M: 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.

C: 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.

HYMN

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake

CW 702

- 1 “Come, follow me,” the Savior spake, “all in my way abiding;
deny yourselves, the world forsake, obey my call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate’er betide, take my example for your guide.
 - 2 “I am the light, I light the way, a godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day, I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show how you must sojourn here below.
 - 3 “I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul’s salvation,
your heart from ev’ry guile to free, from sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul and lead you to your heav’nly goal.”
 - 4 Then let us follow Christ our Lord and take the cross appointed
and, firmly clinging to his Word, in suff’ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle’s strain the crown of heav’nly life obtain.
- 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.



BLESSING

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.



CLOSING HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

CW 704

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
flee the world which would deceive us and to sin our souls allure.
Ever in his footsteps treading, body here, yet soul above,
full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior, lead; I follow thee.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus, to his image e'er conform;
heaven's glory soon will please us, sunshine follow on the storm.
Though we sow in tears of sorrow, we shall reap in heav'nly joy,
and the fears that now annoy shall be laughter on the morrow.
Christ, I suffer here with thee; there, O share thy joy with me.
- 3 Let us also die with Jesus; his death from the second death,
from our soul's destruction, frees us, quickens us with life's glad breath.
Let us mortify, while living, flesh and blood and die to sin,
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here I die to thee, there to live eternally.
- 4 Let us gladly live with Jesus; since he's risen from the dead,
death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, thou art now our head.
We are truly thine own members, where thou livest, there live we;
take and own us constantly, faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.
Jesus, here I live to thee, also there eternally.

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST

Pastor Rob Guenther
Pastor Jeff Bovee
Craig Hirschmann

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship No Bible Class
Wednesday	5 pm 7 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism Choir
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Sep. 6	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship No Bible Class
Monday, Sep. 7	Office	Closed
Tuesday, Sep. 8	6 pm 6:30 pm	Sunday School Meeting Elders' Meeting
Wednesday, Sep. 9	5 pm 7 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism Choir
Thursday, Sep. 10	10 am 7 pm	Bible Class Bible Class
Saturday, Sep. 12	3 pm 6:30 pm	Summer Send-Off @ St. Paul's School Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 664.

Fruits of Faith:

\$7,401 Home Operations ~ YTD: \$581,884 / Needed: \$585,799
\$912 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$58,470 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)
\$492 MVL ~ YTD: \$38,080 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)
\$247 Building Fund
\$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$10 K-12 Tuition Assistance Fund
\$5 Food and Fellowship



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

7th Street Doors ~ The 7th Street doors are now "Exit Only". This entrance will remain locked during the week and during worship services on weekends. Worshippers can still exit through these doors. Please use the Washington St entrances to gain entry for worship services. Thank you for helping keep our campus safe for all who work, volunteer, and worship at St. John's!

Join the Handbell Choir! ~ The handbell choir consists of 11 ringers, all dedicated to bringing music to enhance worship. The group includes St. John's members and MLC students. It would really be nice if we had more St. John's members step up to be part of the choir. The Choir plays for worship 3+ times each semester (when MLC students are present). There are times when members cannot play for whatever reason, so we are looking for more people to join the group- even if it is on a substitute basis. Ringing involves mostly being able to count rhythms. It is not necessary to be able to read music, since each note to be played is highlighted. We are all patient when someone new joins the group, because most members have never played before. Give it a try! The group rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:00. During Lent and Advent, the group decides which night is better for rehearsal (Tues. or Thurs.). This fall we will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9. If you're interested/have questions, contact Becky Berg 989-280-7674 or rberg@mvlhs.org.

Sunday School Teachers Needed ~ Sunday School is scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. St. John's is looking for Sunday School teachers. It has always been our practice to have more than one teacher per class so that teachers do not have to teach every week. We also can always use substitutes if that is something you might be interested in doing from time to time. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Bovee by email, text, or phone: revbovee@gmail.com or 507-217-6364. You may also call the church office, but Pastor Bovee's personal cell number is preferable. Thanks!

Ask the Pastor ~ Come to the next "Ask the Pastor" evening on September 17th at 7pm and bring a friend! We have really enjoyed listening to and learning from the pastors' responses in the past events we have had! Bring your questions that evening or place your questions in the box on the table in the narthex area. There is a sign-up sheet next to the box to help us plan for refreshments. Hope to see you there!

Cards of Caring ~ Members of St. John's and MLC students are invited to help make cards our congregation sends to homebound members, LWMS-Befriend a Mission Families and others from our church. We use donated, recycled, and created cards. Supplies are furnished. We need help writing messages, stamping, and assembling cards. This fall our main focus will be on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We meet Saturday mornings between 9am-12pm at 403 N. Minnesota St. (across from the Glockenspiel). We will meet on September 19, October 17th, and November 14th, 2026. Thank you for considering to serve our members. For further information contact Lois Willems at (507) 676-1230.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Openings at MLC ~ Part-time Dormitory Custodians: Enjoy flexible scheduling while caring for the place that our students call home during their time at MLC. Part-time Receptionist: Be the welcoming first point of contact for students, visitors, and the MLC community while providing excellent service, assisting with daily office operations, and extending Christian hospitality.

Join us for Summer Send-off ~ on Sept 12th from 5:00 - 7:00 pm! John & 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 Herman Fest fireworks! See you there 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! Don't have the time but still want to help? There is also a donation form on the website to sign up to donate food and drinks for the meal. Questions? Contact Laura Martens at lmartens@splnewulm.org

5K Event Coming Soon ~ Whether or not a 5K race is your thing has no bearing on our next School Capital Campaign event. Why? Because this is a .5K...yes, a POINT 5K, and it's for everyone. This is no joke! We are thrilled to bring you the Third Annual - and bigger and better - .5K event, where there is something for all ages...and definitely NO running involved. Want to participate in the "race?" Great! Do you eat? Super! We'll have food! Do you bowl, even if just for fun? There will be that, too! And the most serious of all (for real): a bean bag tournament! Join us for all the fun on Sunday, September 27, at Kegel Klub in New Ulm. Come and go as it works for you. Have fun as you donate to the St. Paul's School Capital Campaign all at the same time! More details coming soon.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Father's World Tours is partnering with WELS Home Missions to offer two upcoming trips, and we'd love to have you along. Cool Canyons (Nov 7-19) takes us to see some of the Southwest U.S.'s most stunning scenery, including the Mighty Five national parks in Utah, the Grand Canyon, and much more. We'll also worship with and tour our Apache missions in Peridot and East Fork, along with a home mission in St George, UT. Flora and Fauna of Florida (Jan 23-Feb 7, 2027) offers a two-week midwinter warmup to the Sunshine State as well as an Eastern Caribbean Cruise aboard the Sky Princess. We will again connect with our missions and missionaries in the area while enjoying encounters with wildlife (gators, manatee, and maybe monkeys), gorgeous gardens, and fabulous fellowship. Learn more at www.fathersworldtours.com or call Steve at 507-217-1731.

About the Cover ~ Jesus didn't call for us to take up our pillows to follow him. He called for us to take up our crosses. What does that mean? Jesus himself explains it: deny self. Don't pursue our own selfish interests when they conflict with what God wants. May Jesus help us all to follow him more closely.