



“I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.” Ezekiel 37:14

PENTECOST

May 18 / 19, 2024



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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.

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, by whose Word the heavens and earth came into being, and by whose breath you created man from the dust of the earth: Speak your Word again to the hearts of all who have ears to hear, and cause faith to come from what was once unbelief, and light to shine through the darkness of sin, peace to repair discord, and joy to replace sorrow. Give life through your saving gospel to create and strengthen faith. Bless us now through your Word and Sacraments that the Holy Spirit may work through us and lead us to serve you as you give us the ability to do so. We pray it in Jesus' name. Amen.

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OPENING HYMN***Come, O Come, Life-Giving Spirit*****CW 588****CONFESSION**

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FIRST LESSON**Ezekiel 37:1–14**

¹The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.

³He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’ ”

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’ ” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’ ”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 2:1–21

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

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.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful peo - ple,

and kindle in them the fire of your love. *Refrain*

GOSPEL

John 15:26–27; 16:4b-11

²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, ⁵but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

CW585

SERMON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

WHERE HOPE NEVER RUNS DRY

1. LACK OF HOPE BRINGS MISERY

2. SURE HOPE BRINGS LIFE

NICENE CREED

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PRAYER of the CHURCH for PENTECOST

OFFERING/ COMMUNION

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

DISTRIBUTION

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

CW586

HYMNS

Holy Spirit, Light Divine

CW593

PRAYERS and BLESSING

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† † †

PREACHER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Rob Guenther

ORGAN

Becky Berg

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Mon	6:30 pm	Renovation Prep
Tue	5:30 pm	Joint Council
	7 pm	Council
Wed	6:30 pm	St. Paul's School Closing Service at MLC
Thu	10:30 am	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
	7 pm	Bible Class: Jude and 2 Peter
Fri	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
	11 am	Highland Regency Apt. Service
Sat	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

Saturday: 6:30 pm

Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 26	8 & 9:30 am	Worship: Summer Schedule Begins (No 11 am service)
	2 pm	MVL Graduation
May 27		Church office closed
May 28	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
May 29	6 pm	Campus Facilities Taskforce Meeting
Jun 1	6:30 pm	Worship
Jun 2	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Bible Stories Not Taught in Sunday School
	3 pm	Cancer Support Group Meeting
	7 pm	Soccer Camp Meeting
Jun 3 - 6	9 am	Soccer Camp at MLC Fields
Jun 3	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Jun 4	6 pm	Women of St. John's at 820 S. Washington St.
Jun 8	6:30 pm	Worship
Jun 9	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Bible Stories Not Taught in Sunday School
	7 pm	MVL Delegate Meeting
Jun 10	11:30 am	OWLS Meeting
	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Jun 11	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Jun 14	5 pm	Wedding Rehearsal / Dinner
Jun 15		Carmichael / Schroeder Wedding
	6:30 pm	Worship
Jun 16	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Bible Stories Not Taught in Sunday School
Jun 16 - 22		Camp Shetek at Sibley State Park

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 624.

Fruits of faith given:

\$19,078	Home Operations ~ <i>Needed to Date: \$334,896 / Received to Date: \$369,535</i>	
\$837	MVL ~ <i>Received to Date: \$22,909</i>	\$135 Christian Family Solutions
\$2,492	Missions ~ <i>Received to Date: \$33,408</i>	\$110 K-12 Education Assistance
\$442	Building Fund	\$60 Martin Luther College
\$1,000	Endowment Fund	\$60 St. Paul's School
\$100	Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund	\$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$200	Ministerial Education Endowment Fund	

Green Thumb Needed ~ A volunteer is needed to plant the flowers in the pots that are placed outside of the church by the arches. If you have an eye for arranging planters please contact Sam Hunter at properties@stjohnsnewulm.com.

Volunteers Needed ~ Many hands help make an outreach event go smoothly, and with 100-150 kids participating in Summer Soccer Camp, please consider joining the Soccer Camp team! There are a variety of ways you can help, from first aid tent to snacks to coaching! Sign up now at johnandpaulministires.com! Questions? Reach out to Beth Scharf (JPM event coordinator) at scharfbm@mlc-wels.edu.

Renovation Prep Volunteers Needed ~ In preparation for the renovation, the vestry and sacristy closets need to be emptied in order for flooring to be installed in early June. A date has been set for Monday, May 20, at 6:30 pm. With enough volunteers it should only take about an hour. Pastors and Staff Minister will be there to help sort the items. "Many hands make light work" - hope to see you there.

St. John's Cancer Group ~ will meet on Sunday, June 2 at 3 pm in the church basement fellowship area. Our purpose is encouragement from God's Word and each other. Consider coming if you or someone close to you has experienced a cancer diagnosis of any kind, either recently or at any time in the past. Our gatherings are not just for the person diagnosed with cancer. Spouses, adult family members, or other support persons are also very welcome to attend. For more information contact Wayne Wagner at wwagner50@outlook.com.

Church Campout 2024 ~ We are excited to announce that after taking a year off, the church campout is back on the calendar for June 21-23! It will be held again at the Sportsmen's Park in Sleepy Eye. Like in previous years, there will be a church service held at the campground over the weekend, and there will be several other fellowship opportunities as well. Reserve your spot at: bit.ly/ChurchCampout24. We hope to see many of you there!

Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund ~ We are pleased to report that for the 2024-25 school year there are 11 students from St. John's who are planning to attend Martin Luther College or Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to prepare for serving in the public ministry. To encourage these students and assist in meeting the rising cost of their education, we plan to send MLC and WLS financial assistance to be applied to each student's account. As of April 14, \$4,760 has been contributed. Please consider making a special offering for this purpose. MLC's Congregational Partner Grant Program will match the support that a congregation provides up to \$1,450 per student. If you make a contribution for this purpose, please indicate whether you want your offering to go to the regular Ministerial Student Assistance Fund or to the Ministerial Student Assistance Endowment Fund. Offerings to the endowment fund are invested, and only the investment earnings are distributed each year. Offerings to the regular student assistance fund are distributed in the current school year.

Summer Church Softball ~ Our St John's slow-pitch softball team season runs from early June to early August. All St John's members age 12 and older are welcome to join! If you are interested in playing please fill out the survey at bit.ly/SJNUSB or scan the QR code.



You Are Invited to Usher/Greeter Training ~ Are you interested in serving at church in a different way? Consider joining an usher crew or greeter team. We will meet on Saturday, May 18th, from 9 - 10:30 am to review basic usher and greeter duties, such as greeting worshippers, lighting candles, and collecting the offering. Currently, the usher program serves as an entry point for male leadership at St. John's. With this in mind, the usher program is open to males in confirmation class in 7th grade and higher. Greeter teams are open to students in confirmation class, 7th grade and higher. Contact Deacon Brad Price at deacon@stjohnsnewulm.com if you are interested or if you have any questions.

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.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ammo Can ~ Each May and November, Lutheran Military Support Group holds its Ammo Can Campaign. Financial gifts toward this campaign fund scholarships for Veterans as they pursue a public ministry at MLC, BLC, and WLS, spiritual retreats and workshops for WELS and ELS Veterans dealing with PTSD, and more. Please place your donations in the ammo can in the new narthex. For specific details, see the poster near the ammo can, or contact Brad Price at bprice@lutheranmilitary.org.

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) will be traveling to Madelia for a noon meal at the La Plaza Fiesta Mexican Restaurant on Wednesday, May 15. Each person will order their own meal, with part of it covered by Thrivent Action Team moneys. Following the meal, we will walk/drive to The Greenhouse at Total Landscape for a tour. Those who are willing to drive or want a ride should meet at 11:15 am at the St. Paul's Church, New Ulm, parking lot. Contact Myron Fluegge at flueggemtj@hotmail.com or call 507-359-2424 by Monday noon, May 13 if you plan to attend. Hope you are interested.

Preschool Cleaning Party ~ Don't miss this fun fellowship event on Thursday, May 30 from 9 am - noon (at the latest). A sloppy joe lunch will be provided to all volunteers. There will be indoor and outdoor cleaning options. To RSVP or ask questions contact Heidi Meyer at hmeyer@splnewulm.org.

MLC ECLC Open House ~ You're Invited! The MLC Early Childhood Learning Center will be hosting a community open house on Saturday, June 8 from 10 am to 1 pm to celebrate 10 years of serving children and their families in our current facilities. Please join us at 405 N Highland Ave. for walk-throughs of our classrooms, gift baskets, and more! We thank God for the 10 years with which he's blessed us!

"Camp Shetek" MN Valley Lutheran Camp ~ "Camp Shetek" will be held at the Group Center at Sibley State Park from June 16 - June 22. More information can be found in the narthex and online. Online registration is open at www.campshetek.org.

WELS Women's Conference ~ **Registration is open** for the 2024 WELS Women's Ministry Conference, on Sunday, July 28-30, at the Ingleside Hotel, Pewaukee, WI. This conference is for any woman who is passionate about the spread of the Good News of Jesus in our world today, no matter her age and background. New to the faith or seasoned, married or single, the keynotes and wide variety of breakout sessions will encourage, equip, and empower you in your walk of faith. You can find more information at welswmconference.net.

Job Openings ~ St. Paul's School is looking for After Preschool Care workers who enjoy working with 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children. The position is open to anyone older than 18 and is for the school year. Contact Heidi Meyer at preschool@splnewulm.org with questions or to apply. There are several job openings at Martin Luther College. For the complete list of openings and to apply go to mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

About the Cover ~ The cover art for the bulletin is a print by Gustave Dore from his illustrated Bible printed in the mid 1800's. It depicts the account of Ezekiel and the Valley of the Dry Bones. Although the bones refer to the nation of Israel, it is really a portrayal of what all of us are without Christ. We are dead in sin. But by God's grace and through the proclamation of his Word, we have been raised from spiritual death to spiritual life. Now alive through faith in Christ we are able to serve God as the great army of believers, the Holy Christian Church.