



October 2025

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1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. 5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. 7 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. 8 Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire. 10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." 11 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Psalm 46)

There seems to be a lot to be scared about lately doesn't there? A woman was stabbed to death on the subway. Charlie Kirk was murdered in cold blood. Right here in New Ulm and Courtland three people were hit by vehicles and seriously injured. And the week of writing this, there were 10 funerals at Minnesota Valley Funeral Home, 4 of which were led by St. Paul's Pastors. There's always that ever present fear of illness, injury, poverty, and death.

But as we gather to celebrate Reformation Sunday this month, we are reminded of the powerful message found in Psalm 46, which has inspired countless hymns, including Martin Luther's beloved "A Mighty Fortress," a regular rally cry of the Lutheran Reformation. This Psalm reassures us that God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble, no matter what the trouble is.

In a world filled with uncertainties—be it political unrest or national conflict, or personal struggles in your marriage, with your kids, or with your health or finances—fear can easily take hold of our hearts. Yet, God, through Psalm 46 encourages us to cast aside our fears and trust in God's promises. The Psalmist reminds us that even when the earth shakes and nations rise against one another, we need not fear, for God is with us. And that's proven most clearly in the gospel. God is with us in Christ. Immanuel, "God with us," left heaven and

came to earth to live a perfect life in our place and die an innocent death on a cross to pay for our sin. Now among all the uncertainties of life we can always be certain of this: We are forgiven. We have peace with God. Heaven itself is ours.

Luther himself grappled with fear and doubt, but he found solace in the truth that God is our fortress. We are saved by God's grace alone, through faith alone, as revealed by God's Scriptures alone. Nothing can take that from us. This assurance allows us to be still and recognize that our salvation is secure through Christ. So we can let go of our worries and embrace the peace that comes from knowing God is always by our side.

As we reflect on these truths this coming Reformation Day, let's remember: "No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the power of Christ in me." May we stand firm in our faith, knowing that the Lord Almighty is with us, and may we face each day with courage and confidence. Have no fear!

In Christ,
Pastor Guenther

October Sermon Texts

October 5	Luke 17:1-10	Your Duty to Forgive
October 12	Luke 17:11-19	Your Faith Has Made You Well
October 19	Luke 18:1-8	Keep Praying
October 26	Jeremiah 31:31-34	It Is Most Important to Remember

Bible Class meets in the Church Basement
The class can also be found online at bit.ly/SJBibleClass

Sundays at 9:30am	Sermon on the Mount	Pastor Jeff Bovee
Thursdays at 10am	Life of David	Pastor Rob Guenther
Thursdays at 7pm	A Simple Way to Pray	Pastor Jeff Bovee

Council Digest

Membership Changes

A. Transfers Out:

NA

B. Transfer In:

Hope Sulzle from Peace in Cottonwood, AZ

Meg Zabell from St. Paul in Green Bay, WI

Robert & Kara Wright, (Winston, Gwenyth, Rory, Quade, Quintin) from North Cross, Lakeville, MN

Matt & Jill Doering from St. Paul in Lake Mills, WI

Guest Speaker

Dr. Plath presented an update on MVL's ministry, covering federation partnerships, student body, facilities and new classes, and finances. He raised the question of what a sustainable model for the future might look like in order to steward current gifts and address short and long-term challenges. He also noted that a couple of positions will be called for in the coming year.

Financial Secretary

Financial Secretary Weinkauff provided his report of the monthly spreadsheet numbers. Motion to accept the financial secretary report MSA.

Treasurer's Report

Bookkeeper Thom presented the Financial Dashboard, Investment earnings were strong, with gains in the Operating Fund, Endowment Fund, and Ministerial Education Fund.

Motion to accept the financial report MSA.

Stewardship Report

Stewardship reported on their strategic initiatives:

Challenges: online giving and expressing thanks to members. Both improving through new platforms (Givelify), newsletter reports, and consistent encouragement.

Building fund for sanctuary and facilities progressing well.

Next steps include creating policies for new board-designated funds.

Upcoming

Next Council 10/21/25. Submit Q-reports to Secretary by Friday, October 24 for access to Voters. Voters Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 10/28/25 at 7pm

Cards of Caring

Members of St. John's are invited to help make the cards our congregation sends to homebound members and others during the year. We used donated, recycled, and created cards. You can help by making cards, writing messages, using stamps and seals to assemble the cards. We make cards for birthdays, anniversaries, get-well, sympathy, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines, Easter and Confirmation.

Please join us at 403 N. Minnesota St. between 9:00 a.m. and noon on Saturdays: September 20, October 18, and November 15, 2025. Come and go as your schedule allows. About 80 cards are needed for each occasion. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our members. For further information contact Lois Willems at 507-676-1230.



LWMS Convention 2025

I was a delegate from St. John's, as was Markey Kuckhahn. We went by bus to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where the Arvest Convention Center had room for the almost 700 attendees. The theme was Sowing the Seeds of Faith, I Cor. 3: 6-9. The bus took 2 days to get there and two days back, and the convention was 4 days. We stayed at a hotel nearby. 64 countries were represented, and we saw the flags of all of them. We heard from many missionaries from all over the country and world. I sat in on work being done in Arizona, Amarillo, Australia, etc. Some of the work is being done by computer, such as Academia Christo. One goal is to get more pastors and evangelist from the country itself, since they seem to have more success. Donations are collected all year. The totals for this year were \$ 66,000 for Home Ministries (Campus Ministry) and \$66,000 for World Missions (Bangladesh). The convention gave us each much enlightenment on God's work everywhere. The next convention will be in Madison, Wisconsin, the last weekend in June, 2026.

LeiLani Rahn

Library News

Did you get a chance to watch the “One on One” movie at the New Ulm Theatre a month or two ago? Now you have another chance since the OWLS group donated a DVD copy to our library. It can be checked out as usual, but please return it within a short time so others can watch it also. It is the story of a cop who became a believer and then became a pastor and started spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to people on a One on One basis. It is based on a true story.

We have another DVD that was donated to our library. It is Season 5 of “The Chosen”. It has 8 episodes in it, on three discs, to total 458 minutes. Here again, do not hold it too long so others can watch it also. Also notice that we have a whole shelf of DVD’s that can be checked out and watched. Notice that there are several versions of Luther films in the library, since it is October, and Reformation is at the end of the month.

There is also a book to add to the library. Ken Ham, the man behind the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter in Kentucky, and Bodie Hodge have collected 25 answers to questions about creation, evolution, and the Bible. As part of the group “Answers in Genesis”, these writers explain how Creation and the Bible make sense and answer basic questions, that evolution cannot. Using the Bible as truth, they answer the basic questions such as Is there a really a God? What is wrong with million of years? Who was Cain’s wife? Could God really create all in 6 days? Was there really a flood like Noah’s? How about dinosaurs? Where does the Ice Age fit in? Does archeology support the Bible? This book, “New Answers #1” is the first book in a four part series. We already have book 4 in our library. The series was started in 2006 but has had 34 printings up to 2024. This adds up to almost 100 questions answered about creation, evolution, and the Bible. It was good reading.

Have a good October! LeiLani Rahn

Women of St. John’s

Women of St John’s - Please join us on Tuesday, October 7th at 7 p.m. in the church basement for a presentation on WELS Prison Ministry. If you are able to help out with snacks that evening, please contact Sarah Logston or Kara Johnson.

Missionary Presentation - Pastor Abram Degner will be giving a presentation about the mission work being done in Latin America during Bible Class on Sunday, October 5th. Missionary Degner currently resides and serves in South America.

St. Paul's School

Praise the Lord, O My Soul

St. Paul's School is working under the theme of Psalm 103:2 - Praise the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all his benefits. An application of encouragement can be found in God's Word from *Psalm 103:18*.

"...and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments."

With these words, the psalmist calls us to remember and rejoice in God's gracious gifts. One of the greatest benefits we share is the assurance that God's steadfast love and righteousness extend far beyond our own lives. His blessings reach to "children's children," to generations yet unborn.

What a humbling truth this is! Our work today, though it may seem ordinary or small, carries generational and eternal weight. Every act of faith, every prayer spoken, every lesson taught, and every example of love lived in Christ contributes to God's plan of salvation reaching others. We are part of a multi-generational relay race of faith. Those who came before us faithfully ran their leg, handing the baton of the Gospel to us. Now, in this moment of history, we have the privilege and calling to run our leg well—passing on God's promises to the next generation.

This perspective transforms how we view our days. We are not simply filling time; we are investing in eternity. Our Savior Jesus has already won the victory, and in Him we labor with purpose. By His grace, the story of His love will continue to be told to "children's children," until He comes again.

So, forget not all His benefits. Run faithfully. And rejoice in the God who blesses generation after generation.

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEW ULM, MN 56073

OCTOBER 2025
354-6744

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<u>T.V. Service:</u> Mondays: 6 pm Tuesdays: 1 pm Thursdays: 10 am on Comcast Channel 14 Nuvera Channel 3		1 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pmHomeschool & Public Catechism 7 pm Choir	2 10 am Bible Class 7 pm Bible Class	3	4 WORSHIP 6:30 PM W/ COMMUNION
5 Pentecost 17 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM W/ COMMUNION 9:30 am Bible Class and Sunday School	6 6:30 pm Elders	7 7 pm Women of St. John's Meeting	8 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pmHomeschool & Public Catechism 7 pm Choir	9 10 am Bible Class 11:30 amStewardship Meeting 7 pm Bible Class	10	11 8 am Properties Meeting MLC Homecoming
12 Pentecost 18 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 9:30 am Bible Class and Sunday School	13 6 pm Evangelism 7 pm Education	14 4 pm Oak Hills Living Center Service 6 pm Sunday School Meeting	15 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pmHomeschool & Public Catechism 7 pm Choir	16 10 am Bible Class 7 pm Bible Class	17	18 WORSHIP 6:30 PM W/ COMMUNION
19 Pentecost 19 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM W/ COMMUNION 9:30 am Bible Class and Sunday School	20	21 7 pm Council	22 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pmHomeschool & Public Catechism 7 pm Choir	23 10 am Bible Class 7 pm Bible Class	24	25 WORSHIP 6:30 PM
26 Reformation WORSHIP 8 & 9:30 9:30 am Bible Class and Sunday School	27	28 7 pm Voters' Meeting	29 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pmHomeschool & Public Catechism 7 pm Choir	30 10 am Bible Class 7 pm Bible Class	31	

Correspondence

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Mike Thom	bookkeeper@stjohnsnewulm.com

Stewardship Committee

Did you know that St. John's has a "wish list". On occasion a board or committee would like something that is not covered in their regular budget. When that is the case, they can request that the item they want be added to a St. John's wish list. They fill out a request form that details what they would like, costs, and why it is important to the ministry at St. John's. This form is given to the Board of Stewardship for approval. If the request is approved, the congregation is made aware that there is a new item on the wish list so that those who are moved to do so may designate an offering for the purchase of that item. It remains on the wish list until enough designated offerings are received, after which the item is purchased and goes off the wish list.

Two items have recently been added to the wish list.

1. Music folders for the Jr. Choir – \$600.00
2. A small grand piano for the front of the sanctuary – \$21,400.00

Here are the details.

Junior Choir Folders: The request is for durable choir folders for St. Paul's School Junior Choir. Inexpensive ones were purchased a while back but did not hold up long. The folders would be used in the three-a-week choir practices at school and at worship services. About 30 would be needed. These more durable folders would help protect the music used by the choir and help ensure it lasts for years to come. The stewardship committee approved **\$600.00** for this wish list item.

Grand Piano for the front of the sanctuary: St. John's Worship Committee would like to replace the piano in the front of the church. The existing piano was never meant to be effective in a large space seating around 350 people. It was meant for a room in a house or a small music studio. The committee would like to purchase a new 5-foot Yamaha grand piano. The piano would fit in front of the church next to the lectern. The piano would be better able to fill the church with sound. Yamaha pianos are known for their stability of tuning and action, something desired in our ever-changing climate conditions. Yamaha pianos deliver a clear sound that would accompany choirs well. The Stewardship committee approved this item for the wish list for **\$21,400.00** which includes the piano, piano truck for easy transport, custom fitted cover, piano Life Saver Humidity control system, delivery and assembly.

As I consider how well the members of St. John's support our ministries, I am reminded of what happened when offerings were needed for the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness. May the Lord move us to provide "more than enough" for the work we do for our gracious Savior who gave everything for us.

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give." (Ex 25:2)

"The people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done." (Ex 36:3-5)

Praise the Lord!
Your Stewardship Committee

Central Africa Medical Mission

This past August, I had the privilege to travel to both Malawi and Zambia to visit our CAMM clinics, meet the medical and administrative staff, and visit with the people being served in these areas. I observed dedicated staff who have been blessed with hearts of service for the Lord and deeply care for the health of the community. One of my objectives during my visit was to get to the bottom of some most common questions I receive from our Contact Women around the US.

Where is my package and why does it take so long to arrive at the clinic? This is very likely the most common question I receive from Contact Women. Upon my arrival in Malawi, one of my first questions for Lusungu Mwambeye, the Clinic Administrator at the Lutheran Mobile Clinic was, can we visit the Post Office? In Malawi, packages are not delivered directly to the property where the ambulance is packed up each day to travel out to each of the mobile clinic sites. Rather, staff make regular visits to the Post Office to check to see if any packages have cleared Customs and are ready to be picked up. Lusungu tries to get to the Post Office once each week if possible. Once at the Post Office, she checks the clinic's box for a notification of packages and often is sent to another window around the back of the office for the actual pickup process. As you can see from the picture, this particular day, we picked up a number of packages. It was fun to see many of your names and addresses from the US. After packages are brought back to the Mobile Clinic Office site, they are opened and the content is recorded in a report which is then sent to me each month. After this, I am able to notify you that your package has safely arrived. As you can see, the process is quite a bit different from what we experience here in the US and often takes longer. The process is very similar in Zambia.



One additional question I receive often is whether or not CAMM is charged for receipt of packages and the answer is yes. In Malawi, CAMM is charged about \$1.00 for each package and in Zambia the charges are based on weight and often amount to about \$2-3 per package. Many of our Contact Women wonder if the charges are related to the value that is declared on the shipping documents and the answer to that is currently no.



So keep the packages coming and pray for patience. They are arriving safely and are being put to quick use at each of the clinics.

God's Hand at Work

During my visit to the Mobile Clinic in Malawi and the clinic in Zambia I was filled with comfort and joy as I observed the hard work and dedication of the staff and watched as the items our Contact Women have lovingly packaged and sent were put to good use. Families traveled on foot with young children and older relatives to be cared for each day. Each day began with the word of God and everyone waited with such patience for the medical attention they needed. The staff found joy in their purpose and never complained about the work that God had called them to do each day. It was an inspiration to witness and a reminder for me to be every thankful for the blessings God has showered on this important mission field.

Closing thoughts

It was nothing less than a privilege to travel and visit our CAMM Clinics. I am so thankful for all that our Contact Women, LWMS and ladies groups do to support this work. Your packages, prayers, and gift are so needed and you are making a difference. Thank you for all that you do to support CAMM.

Yours in Christ,

Stephanie Otto
CAMM Contact Women Coordinator



Happy Birthday!



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|----|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Claudia Weisensel | 20 | Henry Havemeier |
| 2 | Lynn Gudgeon | | Brandon Kowalke |
| | Hunter Holden | | Thomas Poehler |
| | Karen Wels | 21 | Jakobi Olson |
| 3 | Melissa Hughes | | Wayne Wagner |
| | William Pekrul | 22 | Kelly Diersen |
| 4 | Dianne Helget | 23 | Ryan Kuck |
| | Clara Price | | Melody Thom |
| 5 | Kathy Uecker | 24 | Madelyn Fischer |
| | Kurt Wittmershaus | | Elaine Kiecker |
| 6 | Meaghan Martin | | Peter Kopischke |
| 7 | Joseph Kowalke | 25 | Cohen Domeier |
| | Loretta Lang | | Werner Lemke |
| 10 | Janet Holm | 26 | Grace Bases |
| | David Stoering | | Andrew Hippert |
| 12 | Sharon Pizel | 27 | Nick Schmoller |
| | Marlene Zimmermann | 28 | Dennis Caauwe |
| 13 | Dena Ann Iverson | | Patricia Horner |
| 14 | Peggy Pekrul | | Donna Dose |
| 16 | Joseph Hoffmann | | Becky Price |
| | Joyce Resoft | | Sharon Sveine |
| 18 | Lydia Gohl | 31 | Michelle Fluegge |
| | Kortney Gronau | | Mike Wiechmann |
| | Jeremy Uecker | | |
| | Sarai Weston | | |
| 19 | Judy Besemer | | |
| | Glenn Bode | | |
| | Geraldine Steffen | | |

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington
New Ulm MN 56073

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October 2025

FORTRESS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church • New Ulm, Minnesota

Welcome to St. John's!

627 S. Washington St.

507-354-6744

www.stjohnsnewulm.com

Worship Times

Saturdays: 6:30 pm

Sundays: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

and online at:

YouTube.com

Search: Saint John's New Ulm

Adult Bible Class

(In person and online at: bit.ly/SJBibleClass)

Sundays: 9:30 am

Thursdays: 10 am & 7 pm

Sunday School

Sundays: 9:30 am

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