

St, John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Second Sunday of Easter

April 26/27, 2025

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

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
office@stjohnsnewulm.com
facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
507-354-6744
bit.ly/SJyoutube

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

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26/27, 2025

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Lord God, as you set the apostles free from their jail cells, so you have set us free from sin, death, and hell. As you sent the apostles to tell everyone about the new life believers have in you, so you have sent us too. Be with us, and especially our young confirmands, and send us your Holy Spirit, that we might cling to you in faith all the days of our lives, be your witnesses, and boldly obey you rather than human beings. In the name of Jesus, our Risen Savior, we pray. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE **Service Setting 2** pg. 172

PRESERVICE – Handbells 8 & 9:30am *Easter Bells* arr. Sondra Tucker

OPENING HYMN *He's Risen, He's Risen* CW 445

Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS pg. 172

LORD HAVE MERCY pg. 174

GLORY TO GOD pg. 176

PRAYER OF THE DAY pg. 178

Be seated

HANDBELLS 8 & 9:30am *Jesus Shall Reign* arr. Sandra Eithun

FIRST LESSON

Acts 5:12,17–32

¹² The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade.

¹⁷ Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰ “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

²¹ At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. ²² But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, ²³ “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” ²⁴ On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

²⁵ Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” ²⁶ At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

²⁷ The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Psalm 150B

Refrain



Tone



Praise God in his sanctu- / ary;
praise him in his mighty / heavens.
Praise him for his acts of / power;
praise him for his surpassing / greatness. *Refrain*

Praise him with the sounding of the / trumpet,
praise him with the / harp and lyre,
praise him with timbrel and / dancing,
praise him with the / strings and pipe,
praise him with the clash of / cymbals,
praise him with resounding / cymbals. *Refrain*

Let everything that has breath / praise the LORD.
Praise / 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

Revelation 1:4–18

⁴ John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”
and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”
So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth

was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 20:29



Refrain



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

Tone



Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have be - lieved.

GOSPEL

John 20:19–31

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Sons and Daughters of the King* CW 456

SERMON The Great Escape Acts 5:12, 17-32

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED 6:30, 8, 9:30

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.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

pg. 182

6:30 pm, 8 am, 9:30 am will continue with the Lord's Prayer

CONFIRMATION RITE 11am

My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel.

With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven.

I now ask each of you:

Pastor: Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshiping with you today?

Confirmands: I am.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: Yes, 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: Yes, 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.

P: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

C: I do reject him.

P: Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God?

C: *I do.*

P: Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

C: *Yes, and I ask God to help me.*

P: Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

C: *Yes, and I ask God to help me.*

The pastor speaks to the congregation:

Pastor: Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and especially for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

P: Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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.

Individual Confirmation Blessing

ANTHEM 11am

Speak, O Lord

CW 633

- 1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your holy Word; take your truth, plant it deep in us, shape and fashion us in your likeness, that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory.*
- 2 Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility; test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of your purity. Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority. Words of pow'r that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.*
- 3 Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds, help us grasp the heights of your plans for us, truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity. And by grace we'll stand on your promises, and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glory.*

OFFERING

HYMN *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* CW 520

PRAYER AND BLESSING pg. 171

CLOSING HYMN *Shepherd of Tender Youth* CW 756

PREACHER Pastor Rob Guenther
PRESIDING MINISTER Pastor Jeff Bovee
ORGAN Adrian Smith
HANDBELLS Becky Berg

MLC LECTORS ~ Throughout the year, St. John's asks men who are studying for the pastoral ministry to read for a service. We are in a privileged position to see our Lord's answer to our prayers for future called workers.

6:30 pm	Martin Mielke	Ascension Lutheran, Sarasota, FL
8 am	Harrison Hahm	St. Johns Lutheran, Red Wing, MN
9:30 am	Jason Horn	Reformation Lutheran, San Diego, CA
11 am	Juan Carrasquero	Huntersville Lutheran, Huntersville, NC

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: 1 Samuel w/ Prof. Dolan
Monday	6 pm	Worship Meeting
Wednesday	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	7 pm	Bible Class: Ruth
Saturday	8:30 am	Easter for Kids
Sunday, May. 4	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: 1 Samuel w/ Prof. Dolan
Monday, May. 5	1 pm	Stewardship Meeting @ MLC
	6:30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday, May. 7	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, May. 8	10 am	Bible Class: Psalms
	5:30 pm	Board of Discipleship
	7 pm	Bible Class: Ruth
Friday, May. 9	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Philemon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 553 with 361 receiving the Lord's Supper.

Fruits of Faith:

\$13,485 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$284,766 / YTD: \$292,574
\$1,950 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$30,779 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)
\$995 MVL ~ YTD: \$18,623 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)
\$10 K-12 Education Assistance
\$100 Building Fund
\$100 Undesignated Memorials
\$200 Iris Boxes

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



Christians Forward Southeast Asia ~ All are invited to join the Women of St John's on Tuesday, May 6 at 7 p.m. for a presentation by Anne Press, Founder & President/CEO of CFSA. CFSA is a non-profit organization providing spiritual and humanitarian aid around the world. Please join us and bring a friend!

Church Cleaning ~ An indoor/outdoor work day is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 from 9-11 a.m. It is a come and go event. Men, women and children are needed. Many hands make light work! All cleaning supplies will be provided. Questions? Contact Sarah Logston (507-766-6455) or Mikal Schwark (507-304-3121).

Church Softball League in New Ulm ~ Our St. John's slow pitch softball team needs players!! The season runs from early June through late July. Anyone age 13 and up are welcome to join the team! For more information please fill out the interest survey: bit.ly/SJChurchSoftball or scan the QR code:



Kitchen Clean Up ~ Just a reminder for anyone who brought food throughout the Lenten season. If you have a pot or pan downstairs please go and pick it up. Thank you!

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul's Band Concert ~ The St. Paul School Raider Band will present its Spring Concert on May 1 at 7:00 in the school gymnasium. We are *Band, Raider Band 007* and *Band, Junior Band 008*, presenting a concert of spy music and other pieces including the James Bond Theme and Mission Impossible Theme. Join us for an evening of spy fun!

St. Paul's School Dig in Gala ~ Final week to purchase your tickets Thursday, May 1, is the last day to get your tickets for this year's Dig In Gala, so don't delay! We are looking forward to having you join us while we thank God for his gifts to our school and our building campaign. Adult attendees to the Gala held at Turner Hall can expect food and fellowship, silent auction, live auction, other unique giving opportunities, and a program full of surprises and exciting information about Phase Four of the School Building Project Campaign! Dress can be casual, or feel free to dress to the Wild West theme. Reserve your tickets here <https://buytickets.at/digingala2025> or purchase them at the St. Paul's school office. Cost: \$25 each, or \$200 to reserve a table for 8.



Dig In Gala Exciting Change! ~ Each year the students of St. Paul's School collaborate to create items that go up for auction at the Dig In Gala. This year those items will be part of a NEW Online auction! The auction will be available for bidding on Monday, May 5 until the night of the Gala, Friday, May 9. In addition, we will have a Green Bay Packers item and a Minnesota Vikings item up for the online auction. Which item will draw larger bids for the School Building Campaign? Only time will tell! You can access the online auction here starting midnight on Monday morning, May 5: <https://ourschool.auction/digingala2025>

Soccer Camp ~ Join John and Paul Ministries June 9-12, 2025, from 9-11:30 am at the MLC Soccer Fields as experienced leaders and coaches help children ages 4 - 4th grade improve their soccer skills through skill practice and scrimmages and learn the love of Jesus through daily devotions! \$30/child (\$20 additional children of the same family.) Register now at johnandpaulministries.com! *Registration deadline is May 18.* Questions? Reach out to camp coordinator Nick Schmoller at nick.schmoller@gmail.com.

Soccer Camp Help ~ 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 Laura Martens (JPM event coordinator) at lmartens@splnewulm.org.

MLC Recital ~ After a long and winding college journey, *Don't Screw It Up* marks the final chapter of Abby Schmitz's time as a senior vocal performance major. Join us on May 3rd at 3:00pm in the MLC Chapel of the Christ for a recital that is both a celebration and a farewell, featuring a thoughtfully curated program of musical theatre and classical repertoire that reflects years of growth, resilience, and passion. With humor, heart, and a touch of defiance, *Don't Screw It Up* captures what it means to reach the end of a hard-fought path and to sing your way out on your own terms.

CLE ~ The Christian Leadership Experience (CLE), hosted by The Antioch Foundation since 2015, is about building the next generation of leaders for the Church. From training our children to living our faith at work, from volunteering for a committee to participating musically at church, God places opportunities in front of each of us to lead in unique ways. With a broad range of keynotes and breakouts, the CLE has something for everyone, including an in-depth leadership track available on Friday. Networking opportunities abound, with a relaxing social event on Friday evening. We hope you will join us for this two-day event and experience Christian fellowship and opportunities to follow, serve, and lead!
June 13-14, 2025 • La Crosse Center • La Crosse, WI
Visit www.christlead.com for more information and registration details.

Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) ~ will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Saturday, May 3rd, at 10:00 am at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN. A brief service will be held at Trinity Chapel by ELS President Rev. Glenn Obenberger and WELS Civilian Chaplain to the Military Rev. Paul Horn, followed by a ceremony at the ELS Military Monument. This ceremony will include presentations by past and present LMSG Directors, ELS Military Monument designer Jason Jaspersen, and will highlight the past and future work of LMSG in its mission to provide Christ-centered support to Military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. Lunch at the BLC Cafeteria follows. All are welcome. RSVP for lunch is requested by April 17th. Visit www.lutheranmilitary.org for more information.

The MVL Drama Department Presents ~ NEWSIES: Extra! Extra! Hear all about it! The Newsies are on strike! Joseph Pulitzer and all the other publishers have raised the price of papes, and the Newsies are ready to fight the giant! Come see the entertaining and exciting musical, NEWSIES! The performances will be in the new Fine Arts Center at MVL. The dates for this wonderful musical are May 2, 7:00, May 3, 7:00, and May 4, 2:00 General admission at the door. K-12 \$5, Adult \$7.

About the Cover ~ As God rescued the apostles from their jail cell he has rescued us from sin, death, and hell. As he sent them out on their mission to proclaim the message of his grace, so he has sent us! Let us go and proclaim the good news!