



Fourth Sunday After Pentecost • Sunday, June 25, 2023
493rd Anniversary of the Presentation
of the Augsburg Confession

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

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

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
Email: stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

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

 **YouTube**
bit.ly/SJyoutube

 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
507-354-6744

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.

About the Service and Cover

The day was June 25, 1530. The place was Augsburg, a major city in the 16th century, located near Munich in modern Germany. The issue? A demand by the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Charles V, that the Lutheran leaders of his German provinces declare and defend the teachings of their churches. Princes, theologians, and various government officials gathered at the city hall that day, although Luther, protected only by his own prince in his own territory, had to stay away.

Dr. Christian Beyer read in German twenty-one articles on which there was apparent agreement with the Church of Rome and seven over which there was great disagreement. Seven princes and representatives of two cities declared themselves in agreement with the document, as were, of course, the theologians who had prepared the document as well as thousands of Lutheran Christians who accepted it with their mouths and actions. And so was issued the first of the great Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Five other major documents followed: the Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord. Together they were published in the Book of Concord in 1580.

June 25, 2023, marks the 493rd anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. While ancient, this document still holds a central place in the mission and ministry of our congregation and synod, for we confess that the Augsburg Confession is "a true exposition of the Word of God and a correct presentation of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church." It is this subscription to the Lutheran Confessions that makes us not only Bible-believing Christians but also confessional Lutherans.

This service focuses on the blessings we receive through the Word of God as it is presented to us in the Augsburg Confession.

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, we thank you that in your mercy you have preserved your Word throughout the ages. Give us wisdom to understand it properly, and to be assured always of its chief teaching of salvation by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ. May all that we do be inspired by Christ's love for us, which sent him to the cross to atone for our sins. In his name we offer our worship this day. Amen.

Order of Service: 8 am: *Morning Prayer* page 207
9:30 am: *Holy Baptism* page 151

OPENING HYMN - 8 am *Lift High the Cross* **CW900**

OPENING HYMN - 9:30 am *Let the Children Come to Me* **CW649**

VERSICLES, VENITE *p. 207*

FIRST LESSON **Isaiah 55:6-11**

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

⁹"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my

thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

The Word of the Lord.

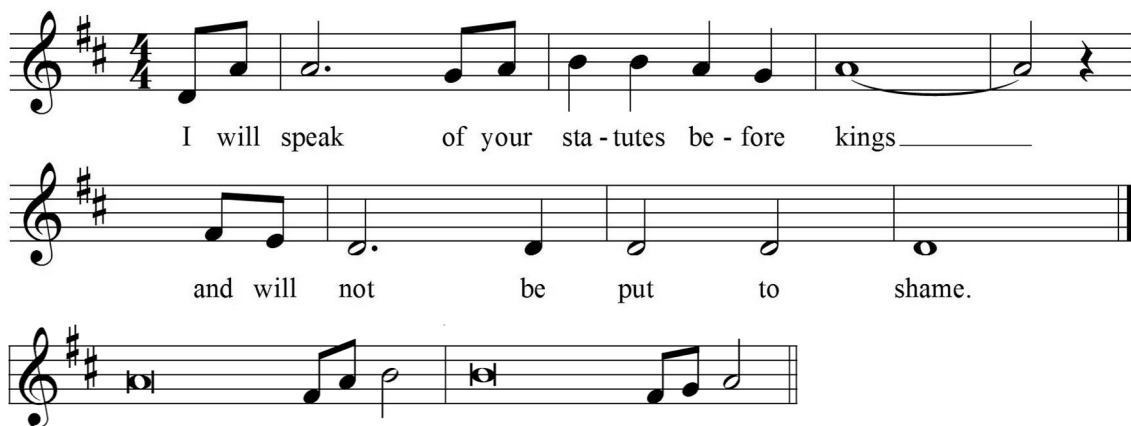
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 119

The text of the refrain, "I will speak of your statutes before kings, and will not be put to shame" (Psalm 119: 46) appears on the original title page of the Augsburg Confession.

Cantor sings first refrain; Congregation repeats and sings all subsequent refrains



Men: Oh, how I / love your law!

I meditate on it / all day long.

Women: Your commands are always / with me

and make me wiser than my / enemies.

Men: I have more insight than all my / teachers,

for I meditate on your / statutes.

All: *Refrain*

Women: I have kept my feet from every / evil path

so that I might o- / bey your word.

Men: How sweet are your words / to my taste,

sweeter than honey / to my mouth!

Women: I gain understanding from your / precepts;

therefore I hate every / wrong path.

All: 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.

All: *Refrain*

PRAYER

Give courage, O Lord, to take our stand on your Word whenever false teachers oppose you and your truth. Lead us to strive for unity and peace, but never at the cost of confession. Make us faithful to the point of death, and then give us a crown of life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 10:5-17

⁵Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

¹⁶But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:32-39

³²“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— ³⁶a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

³⁷“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN of the DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

CW641

This hymn on the Word of God is a composite formed from a number of different sources. Stanza 1 was written by Philipp Melanchthon in 1551, while the remaining stanzas were written by Nicolaus Selnecker at different times during the late 16th century for various occasions. Selnecker was one of the signers of the Formula of Concord, the last of the Lutheran Confessions.

Stanza 1	All
Stanza 2	Women
Stanza 3	All
Stanza 4	Choir
Stanza 5	All
Stanza 6	Men
Stanza 7	All

SERMON

Romans 10:5-17

FAITH COMES THROUGH HEARING THE MESSAGE

1. JESUS IS LORD, THE CHRISTIANS' CONFESSION
2. LIVING BY FAITH, THE CHRISTIANS' PROFESSION

CONFESSION of FAITH

Excerpts from the first portion of the Augsburg Confession

It is with one accord taught and held that there is one divine essence which is named God and truly is God. But there are three persons in the same one essence, equally powerful, equally eternal: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

All three are one divine essence, eternal, undivided, unending, of immeasurable power, wisdom, and goodness, the creator and preserver of all visible and invisible things.

It is taught among us that since the fall of Adam, all human beings who are born in the natural way are conceived and born in sin. This means that from birth they are full of evil lust and inclination and cannot by nature possess true fear of God and true faith in God.

Moreover, this same original sin is truly sin and condemns to God's eternal wrath all who are not in turn born anew through baptism and the Holy Spirit.

Likewise, it is taught that God the Son became a human being, born of the virgin Mary, and that the two natures, the divine and the human, are so inseparably united in one person that there is one Christ.

He is true God and true human being who truly "was born, suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried" in order both to be a sacrifice not only for original sin but also for all other sins and to conciliate God's wrath.

Moreover, the same Christ "descended into hell, truly rose from the dead on the third day, ascended into heaven, is sitting at the right hand of God" in order to rule and reign forever

over all creatures, so that through the Holy Spirit he may make holy, purify, strengthen, and comfort all who believe in him, also distribute to them life and various gifts and benefits, and shield and protect them against the devil and sin.

Finally, the same Lord Christ "will come" in full view of all "to judge the living and the dead."

It is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ's sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.

For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness in his sight.

To obtain such faith God instituted the office of preaching, giving the gospel and the sacraments.

Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when he wills, in those who bear the gospel.

It is also taught that at all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel.

For it is enough for the true unity of the Christian church that the gospel is preached harmoniously according to a pure understanding, and the sacraments are administered in conformity with the divine Word.

Concerning baptism it is taught that it is necessary, that grace is offered through it, and that one should also baptize children, who through baptism are entrusted to God and become pleasing to him.

Concerning the Lord's Supper it is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there.

Concerning confession it is taught that private absolution should be retained and not abolished.

However, it is not necessary to enumerate all misdeeds and sins, since it is not possible to do so.

Concerning repentance it is taught that those who have sinned after baptism obtain forgiveness of sins whenever they come to repentance and that absolution should not be denied them by the church.

True repentance is nothing else than to have contrition and sorrow, or terror about sin, and yet at the same time to believe in the gospel and absolution that sin is forgiven and grace is obtained through Christ.

Concerning church government it is taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper call.

Concerning church regulations made by human beings, it is taught to keep those that may be kept without sin and that serve to maintain peace and good order in the church, such as specific celebrations and festivals.

This is a summary of what is preached and taught in our churches for proper Christian instruction and the comfort of consciences, as well as for the improvement of believers.

This teaching is clearly grounded in Holy Scripture and is, moreover, neither against nor contrary to the universal Christian church.

HYMN

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

CW862

OFFERING

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

KYRIE

p. 213

PRAYER of the DAY

for the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

O Lord, favorably receive the prayers of your church, that being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, we may always make a pure confession of your saving truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER for GRACE

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER/BLESSING

p. 213

CLOSING HYMN

Preserve Your Word, O Savior

CW874

† † †

PREACHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGAN

Pastor Jeff Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Adrian Smith

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
	8 pm	Softball Game at Harman Park
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Wed	6 pm	Jonah ~ The Shadow Puppet Play
Fri	9 am	Summer Fellowship at North Market Park
Sat	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 8 & 9:30 am

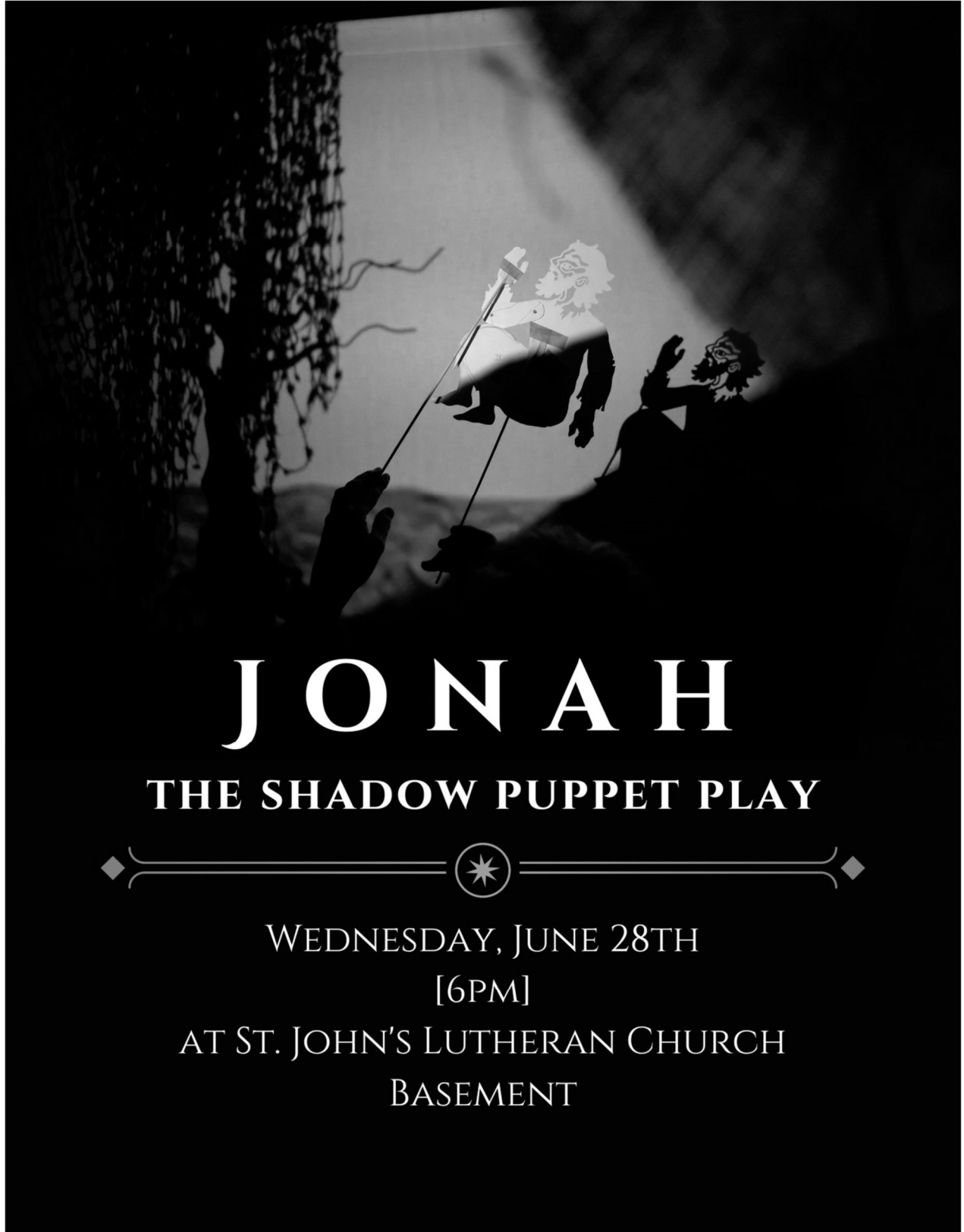
UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul 2	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
Jul 4		Church office closed
Jul 7	9 am	Summer Fellowship at Nehl's Park
	4 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Jul 8		Uher / Thomford Wedding
	6:30 pm	Worship
Jul 9	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
	6:45 pm	Softball Game at Harman Park
Jul 10	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Jul 14	9 am	Summer Fellowship at South Park
Jul 15	9:45 am	Pool Party at Sleepy Eye Aquatic Center
	6:30 pm	Worship
Jul 16	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
	8 pm	Softball Game at Harman Park
Jul 17	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Jul 18	7 pm	Council Meeting
Jul 21	9 am	Summer Fellowship at German Park
Jul 22	6:30 pm	Worship
Jul 23	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
	6:45 pm	Softball Game at Harman Park
Jul 25	7 pm	Voters' Meeting
Jul 26	7 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Jul 28	9 am	Summer Fellowship at Hermann Heights Park
	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service

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

Storytelling of the Book of Jonah

“Jonah - The Shadow Puppet Play” will be performed in the basement on Wednesday, June 28 at 6 pm. Faith Belt is a WELS member from Tennessee who graduated from UT-Knoxville with a studio art degree last year. She's recently developed a shadow puppet show based on the book of Jonah.



JONAH

THE SHADOW PUPPET PLAY



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH

[6PM]

AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

BASEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 297 with 211 attending Communion.

Fruits of faith given:

\$10,607	Home Operations ~ \$19,371 <i>is our weekly need</i>		
\$385	MVL ~ \$1,278 <i>is our weekly need</i>	\$110	Kitchen Fund
\$1,395	Missions ~ \$1,818 <i>is our weekly need</i>	\$25	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$313	Building Fund	\$20	Endowment Fund
\$10	Iris Boxes	\$10	Food & Fellowship

Born Again of Water and Spirit ~ William Perry Gieseke, the son of Melissa and Robby Gieseke was born on May 25 and will be entering his faith-life through the water of baptism at the 9:30 service on Sunday, June 25. A private baptism was given to Harrison George Landkammer on Saturday. May God keep them in this faith all their life!

St. John's/St. Paul's Pool Party Fellowship Opportunity ~ On Saturday, July 15, all St. John's and St. Paul's members are invited to gather for a fellowship opportunity at the Sleepy Eye Aquatic Center from 9:45 - 11:45 am. Admission is FREE. If you would like to stay longer, you will need to leave the pool area at 11:45, and then pay to reenter when it opens up to the public at 12 pm. Between the splash pad and the larger pool there is a max capacity of 387 people. The concession stand will be open. We hope to see many of you there catching up with friends and making some new connections!

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.

Jun 30 North Market Park: 1414 N. German St.

Jul 7 Nehl's Park: 1100 Summit Ave.

Jul 14 South Park: 1800 S. State St.

Jul 21 German Park: 200 N. German St.

75th Anniversary Choir ~ A special anniversary service choir is being assembled to sing for the anniversary services on August 6. Participating in this choir would involve two rehearsals: Wednesday, July 26 and Wednesday, August 2 beginning at 7 pm. The rehearsals will take place in the church balcony. There will also be a warm-up on Sunday, August 6 before the service. If you are interested in being part of this special choir, please contact Craig Hirschmann at chirschmann1@gmail.com by July 6. Please indicate the voice part you can sing: soprano, alto, tenor, or bass.

75th Anniversary Meal Update ~ The 75th Anniversary meal will be held on Sunday, August 6th at 12 pm in the MLC gymnasium. We will be having a picnic type of meal with salads and desserts. There will be a brief program to follow the meal. Registration and payment for the meal will be held each Saturday and Sunday in June before and after services in the new narthex. The deadline for registration is July 9th. The cost of the meal is \$12.50 per person including children. We will accept cash or check payments. Exact change is appreciated. Please contact Denise Karstens if you have any questions at 507-766-5899.

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

LWMS Befriend A Mission (BAM) ~ June is St. John's month to give special attention to our LWMS Circuit's assigned Home and World Missions for 2023-2024. There is a display table in the new narthex with information about each of these 3 missions, as well as cards to sign for each family. All are welcome to join in encouraging our missionaries as they spread God's Word at home and abroad. Please also keep these families in your prayers.

Domestic Abuse Class ~ What is domestic abuse? What does the Bible say about it? And, what can you say to someone who is stuck in an abusive situation? Pastor Frank Italiano, who has had extensive experience dealing with domestic abuse will lead this class along with "Mary," one of his members who has escaped an abusive marriage of almost 20 years. The class is open to all. Because of the topic, it will include "mature" content. The class will meet via Zoom Wednesdays June 21 through July 26, 2023. It will be from 8 to 9:30 pm. Once you register, a secure zoom link will be emailed to the email address you provide.

Register at: <https://trinitycrete.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/149/responses/new>.

Job Openings ~ MVL is looking for a freshmen volleyball coach, if interested contact Craig Morgan at cmorgan@mvlhs.org.

Martin Luther College is accepting applications for part-time Assistant Coaches in football, basketball, and tennis. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.