

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota

ALWAYS
BE
PREPARED
TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO
Everyone
WHO ASKS YOU
TO
GIVE THE REASON
FOR
The Hope
THAT YOU
HAVE
1 PETER 3:15

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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 13/14, 2023

Prayer before worship: God, forgive us for the times that we've been timid in our witness, too ashamed of you to boldly and confidently share what we believe. Thank you for your gift of baptism, that washes us clean of every sin and failure and makes us your perfect sons and daughters, spotless and holy in your sight. Now, fill us with confidence that we might boldly speak of your grace to others so that they too might have the peace and joy that is ours in Christ. In his name we ask it. Amen.

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Three* page 188

OPENING HYMN *Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won* **CW444**

CONFESSION p. 189

FIRST LESSON **Acts 17:22–31**

²²Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

²⁹Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 66

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



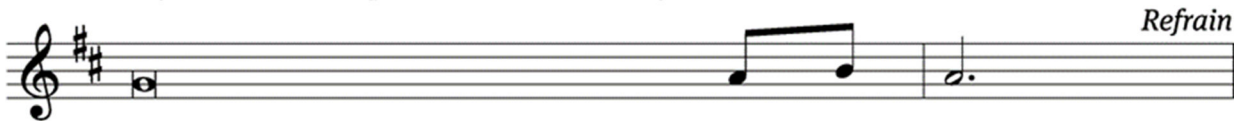
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



If you love me, keep my com - mands.



And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another advocate to help you.

GOSPEL

John 14:15–21

¹⁵“If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he

lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice* **CW557**
Stanzas 1-5

SERMON **1 Peter 3:13-22**
Confident in Christ
I. Confident in My Baptism
II. Confident in My Witness

APOSTLES' CREED p. 197

OFFERING *see announcement*

HYMN *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice* **CW557**
Stanzas 6-10

PRAYERS (*Contemporary*) **and BLESSING** p. 171

CLOSING HYMN *This Is the Threefold Truth* **CW824**

† † †

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGAN

Pastor Rob Guenther
Pastor Jeff Bovee
Becky Berg



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Mon	6:30 pm	Constitution Meeting
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	4:30 pm	75th Anniversary Planning Meeting
	6 pm	Joint Council Meeting
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Thu	4 & 6:30 pm	Ascension Services
	4 pm	Gr. 1-4 & Jr. Choir sing
	5 pm	Fellowship Meal
Fri	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>
Sat	6:30 pm	Worship

† **Upcoming Services** †

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21	8 & 9:30 am	Worship ~ Summer Schedule Begins (NO 11 am service)
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
	3 pm	MVL Groundbreaking Service
May 22	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
May 24	6:30 pm	St. Paul's School Closing Service at MLC
May 25	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: Minor Prophets
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: Galatians
May 26	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
May 27	6:30 pm	Worship
May 28	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	2 pm	MVL Graduation
May 30	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Jun 3	6:30 pm	Worship
Jun 4	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
Jun 5	9 am	Soccer Camp at MLC Soccer Fields
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Jun 6	9 am	Soccer Camp at MLC Soccer Fields
	6 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting at Lincoln Park
Jun 7	9 am	Soccer Camp at MLC Soccer Fields
Jun 8	9 am	Soccer Camp at MLC Soccer Fields
Jun 9	6:30 pm	Worship
Jun 10	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 651.

Fruits of faith given:

\$12,315	Home Operations ~ \$19,371 <i>is our weekly need</i>		
\$682	MVL ~ \$1,278 <i>is our weekly need</i>	\$25	Christian Family Solutions
\$1,167	Missions ~ \$1,818 <i>is our weekly need</i>	\$25	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$522	Building Fund	\$9	Food & Fellowship
\$100	St. Paul's School		

New Arrivals ~ Eden Florence Gohl was born to Lydia and Luke Gohl on May 1. Lainey May Peterson was born to Dan and Kim Peterson on May 7. May our Lord continue to watch over them as Eden and Lainey await their entrance into the Lord's kingdom by baptism.

Ascension Fellowship Meal ~ On Thursday, May 18 we have the opportunity to worship together Jesus' Ascension at 4 or 6:30 pm. Between services we will once again have a potluck dinner in the fellowship hall. Families are asked to bring a main dish and either a salad or dessert. Beverages and rolls will be provided.

Church Softball League ~ Our St John's softball team had a great time last year playing in the inaugural season of the New Ulm church slow-pitch softball league. This year we're hoping more will join in the fun! The season runs from early June to early August. The games are played on Sunday evenings at Harman Park. A fee of \$10 for returning players and \$20 for new players will be collected to help pay for t-shirts, equipment and an end-of-season party. All St John's members age 12 and older are welcome to join! Please fill out the survey no later than Wednesday, May 31 at bit.ly/SJNUSB.



75th Anniversary Meal ~ will be held on Sunday, August 6th at MLC at 12 pm. The cost of the meal will be \$12.50/person. RSVP information will be coming in May/June. Please watch the bulletin for further details.

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 Ballot - Vote by May 22 ~ Every Spring we vote for a few new board members and the new mission projects. Last year over \$200,000 was raised for different mission projects- so your vote is very important! Any confirmed female in our congregation is encouraged to vote. This year there is an additional vote regarding the decision on whether or not to change the name of the organization. Check your email for the link to vote or ask Carrie for a hard copy at carriehieb@yahoo.com.

Ammo Can in the Narthex? ~ As Memorial Day approaches, Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) seeks donations to provide Christ-centered resources to our military men, women, and their families. LMSG is a WELS and ELS affiliated ministry that provides support to Lutheran military members and veterans who experience post-traumatic stress and other combat related symptoms, financial support to veterans pursuing public ministry, and professional development for WELS Military Contact pastors and laypersons. By placing your gift in the Ammo Can located in the new narthex you are supporting our ministry to the military. Questions? See Brad Price or visit www.LutheranMilitary.org. Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with those who serve our nation!

Preschool Registration at St. Paul's School ~ St. Paul's Preschool, New Ulm, now taking applications for the 2023-2024 school year! Visit <https://splnewulm.org/school/preschool/> for more information or to apply. We are excited to share the love of Jesus and the love of learning with your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-old!

MVL Building Update ~ On April 16, our MVL Delegates unanimously voted to move ahead with the Building on the Rock campaign! Dr. Plath and the MVL Finance Committee have been working diligently on securing the loan for the project. The MVL Capital Campaign Committee looks to continue their work in raising funds to support and complete the campaign. Your gifts of support for this project are so appreciated and very much still needed for these legacy additions to our MVL campus. Please consider a gift to the Building on the Rock campaign online or by mailing in a pledge form. Please join us for the Groundbreaking Ceremony scheduled for May 21 at 3 pm at MVL. Construction for the project will start early to mid-June with a completion time frame of a year expected. Further information on giving a gift, attending the ceremony, or watching the livestream progress of the building construction can be found on the school website, mvl.org or by calling Mission Advancement Director, Mr. Jim Buboltz, at (507)-354-6851.

St. Paul's School Closing Service and Graduation ~ We will be celebrating our school closing and graduation with a service on Wednesday, May 24, at 6:30 pm. The service will be held at MLC's Chapel of the Christ. We are blessed to be able to utilize this space for this service. The students in grades K-8 will participate by singing during the service, and our thirty-five graduates will receive their diplomas. We welcome everyone to this special event. It is wonderful to worship together and celebrate another school year.

Luther Prep Summer Camps ~ Luther Prep is excited to offer a variety of day camps and overnight camps for various sports AND for the 3rd year in a row our Phoenix Adventure Camp! We hope to see many of your children join us! Go to https://www.lps.wels.net/apps/pages/summer_camps for all the details & registration info!

Lutheran Pioneer Girl Camps ~ Lutheran Girl Pioneers are for girls who have complete 3rd grade through 12th grade. The LGP District Camp is Thursday, June 15 - Saturday, June 17th at Flandrau State Park Group Camp. The Pioneer Day Camp is Thursday, June 22. More information can be found in the narthex.

Job Opening ~ St. Paul's School is looking to replace 2 paraprofessional positions this fall. For more information and to pick up an application packet and job description go to St. Paul's Church or School.

Staff Minister Jim Dretske
Teacher Christine Baganz
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Phil Scriver
Teacher Emily Stoering
St. John's Church Office

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About the Cover ~ As we live out our faith, others will wonder what makes us different. That will give us an opportunity to tell them. The apostle Peter urges us to always be ready with an answer. And he shares what gives us such bold confidence: What Jesus has done for us in our baptisms. He has washed us clean of our sin, given us clean consciences, and saved us. It is God's saving work for us in Christ that moves us to boldly speak of him so that others too might know the peace and joy that our ours in Jesus.