

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 30/31, 2025

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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

SERVICE OF THE WORD
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
August 30/31, 2025

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Dear God, forgive us for showing favoritism. As harmless as it might seem, we know that you say it's just as evil and damnable as adultery and murder. But we thank and praise you that you don't show favoritism with us but forgive us all equally in Christ. Help us now to show love to everyone, no matter who they are, with a love that mirrors the love that you have shown us in him. In his name we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Come Down, O Love Divine* CW 587

- 1 Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
 and visit it with thine own ardor glowing. O Comforter, draw near;
 within my heart appear, and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.
- 2 O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
 to dust and ashes in its heat consuming; and let thy glorious light
 shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
- 3 Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
 and lowliness become mine inner clothing— true lowliness of heart,
 which takes the humbler part, and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with
 loathing.
- 4 And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
 shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling; no soul can guess his grace
 till it become the place wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Please stand

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the
 fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music. The first line starts with a C-clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The piece ends with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of one line of music. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Be seated

FIRST LESSON

Proverbs 25:6, 7a

- ⁶ Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence,
and do not claim a place among his great men;
⁷ it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here,"
than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Light Dawns in the Darkness*

Psalm 112

Refrain



Tone



Blessed are those who / fear the Lord,
who find great delight in / his commands.
Wealth and riches are in their / houses,
and their righteousness endures for- / ever. *Refrain*

Surely the righteous will never be / shaken;
they will be remembered for- / ever.
Their hearts are secure, they will / have no fear;
in the end they will look in triumph / on their foes.

**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

James 2:1-13

¹ My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

The choir sings the proper VERSE OF THE DAY or the congregation sings the following general verse. During Lent the general verse may be omitted.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

GOSPEL

Luke 14:1,7-14

¹ One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹For

all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

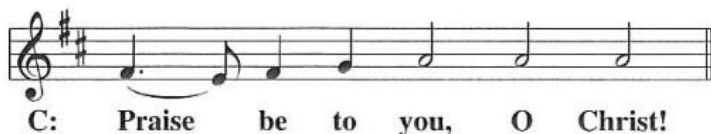
¹² Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.

¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

CW 729

- 1 Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrongs and help our need.
- 2 Bind us all as one together in your Church's sacred fold,
weak and healthy, poor and wealthy, sad and joyful, young and old.
Is there want or pain or sorrow? Make us all the burden share.
Are there spirits crushed and broken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their
care.

3 As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,
by your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,
grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth your will be done.

SERMON	Lifestyles of the Rich and Merciful	James 2:1-13
	I. Don't Show Favoritism	
	II. Thank God that He Doesn't	

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

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

OFFERING

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

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.

Be seated

HYMN *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* CW 766

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
 who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy’s perfect deed,
 we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
 consecrating to your purpose ev’ry gift that you impart.
- 2 Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
 still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision, till your love’s revealing light
 in its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight,
 making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
 stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

- 4 Sent from worship as your servants, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

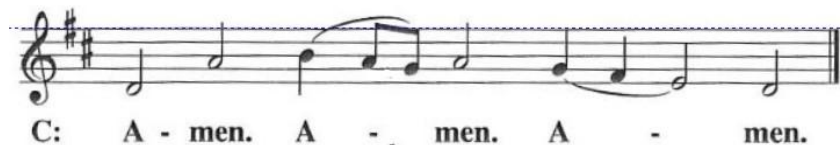
Stand

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN *May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill* CW 697

- 1 May we your precepts, Lord, fulfill and do on earth our Father's will
as angels do above; still walk in Christ, the living way,
with all your children, and obey the law of Christian love.

- 2 So may we join your name to bless, your grace adore, your pow'r confess,
to flee from sin and strife. One is our calling, one our name,
the end of all our hopes the same: a glorious crown of life.
- 3 Spirit of life, of love, and peace, unite our hearts, our joy increase,
your gracious help supply. To each of us the blessing give
in Christian fellowship to live, in joyful hope to die.

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGAN

Pastor Rob Guenther
Pastor Jeff Bovee
Jon Roux

Welcome, Visitors! Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



Givelify

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



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am Worship No Bible Class
Monday	Office Closed 6:30 pm Elders' Meeting
Tuesday	7 pm Women of St. John's
Wednesday	7 pm Choir
Saturday, Sep 6	5 pm Summer Send-Off @ St. Paul's School 6:30 pm Worship
Sunday, Sep 7	8, 9:30 & 11 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class and Sunday School 3 pm Cancer Support Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 622.

Fruits of Faith:

\$9,642 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$605,129/ YTD: \$579,060
\$921 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$68,407 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)
\$913 MVL ~ YTD: \$42,494 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)
\$135 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$1,330 Building Fund
\$25 K-12 Education Assistance
\$1,000 St. Paul's School
\$1 LWMS

Cancer Support Group ~ The cancer support group will meet on Sunday, September 7 at 3:00 PM. This time our meeting will be at St. Paul's Church. Please enter through the side entrance attached to the parking lot on the corner of State and Third. This group supports anyone diagnosed with any type of cancer, whether recently or longer ago, as well as adult family members and friends who support someone with cancer. We meet to be encouraged with God's Word and by fellowship with each other. We also will continue to discuss plans for the Be Still project to extend spiritual comfort and support to others diagnosed with cancer. An optional walking tour in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery will begin at 1:30 PM, weather permitting, for those who wish to do so. We will hear stories about Lutherans in New Ulm history and see unique grave markers. Meet at the original cemetery gate posts along the road between the Lutheran cemetery and the Catholic cemetery. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to walk on uneven ground and small inclines.

St. John's Job Opening ~ Due to an upcoming retirement, St. John's is seeking applicants to fill the position of bookkeeper. This is a part-time position (10-15 hrs/week) that will begin on January 5, 2026. We are looking for a person who has previous experience in accounting or bookkeeping. If you know of someone who may be interested, please pick up a job description from the church office.

Women of St John's ~ Please join us for these upcoming gatherings at 7 p.m. in the church basement: Tuesday, September 2nd - Show and Tell. Bring items from your favorite collection or hobby to share with the group. Also Tuesday, October 7th - WELS Prison Ministry presentation

Summer Send-Off ~ Saturday, September 6th, at 4pm. John & Paul Ministries is hosting the annual Summer Send-Off event. This is a great opportunity to put Friendship Evangelism to work. Invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker and their family for some fun and fellowship. It's a no-pressure invite that our members can enjoy along with friends from the community. As with previous years, there will be bounce houses, games, and an outdoor worship service. We will then have a premium viewing location for the Hermann Fest fireworks that evening. Contact Jesse Zahrt at evangelism@stjohnsnewulm.com with questions.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christians Forward Southeast Asia (CFSA) ~ Please keep this Christ centered humanitarian relief organization in your prayers. On Saturday, September 6th they will have an annual fundraiser hike around the rim of the Grand Canyon. There are information sheets and envelopes on the table by the window in the new narthex if you are interested in donating toward this or the upcoming medical clinic in Thailand in April 2026. Additional information and opportunities can also be found on their website: www.christiansforward.org.

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

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) ~ Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4th! St John's in Redwood Falls, MN is hosting the MN Valley Circuit's Fall Rally. Our speaker will be Pastor Abram Degner about the mission work being done in Latin America and beyond through Academia Cristo. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Interested in traveling with members of your faith family? The OWLS (WELS Seniors) is partnering with Father's World Tours to offer several upcoming tours that incorporate daily devotion and connections with local WELS ministries. California Cruisin' (12/31-1/13) is open for booking through Sept 30 and more 2026 tours will be opening soon. Trips are open to W/ELS members of all ages. Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact us (steve@fathersworldtours.com or 507-217-1731) to learn more.

Attention Military Service Members and Spouses! ~ Are you looking to connect with fellow Christian Warriors who have served in the military and who share your faith? Grab your spouse or "battle buddy" and join us for Growing Together: Shoulder to Shoulder, our Spiritual Retreat held at Camp Shiloh, Texas, October 16-19. Topics at this year's retreat include sharing your faith with other service members, suicide prevention, resilience as a spouse, and others. Join other Christian Warriors from around the country for four encouraging days together. Information about speakers, sessions, schedule, and registration details can be found on our website. Registration closes September 20, 2025. Visit www.lutheranmilitary.org today!



OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) cordially invites all area congregational members and friends of all ages to spend "An Evening with Martin Luther" (A One Man Play). The presentation will take place in the sanctuary of St. John's Lutheran Church, 627 S. Washington St. New Ulm at 7:00 PM on Monday evening, September 8, by Dr. Dwight Johnson. There is no admission. Instead, a free will offering to support the ministry of the Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is encouraged. No reservations needed - just come!

About the Cover ~ Do you have a favorite? It's okay to have a favorite ice cream, a favorite dessert, or a favorite sports team. But if you have more than one child, it's not a good idea to have a favorite. If you have students or employees, don't play favorites. If you have friends or family, don't play favorites. In fact, God says that favoritism is just as bad a sin (and equally as damnable) as adultery or murder. The only time it's okay to play favorites is when choosing gods. The true God, the one who rescued from the hell you deserve ought to be your favorite always and forever! And because of what he's done for us in Christ and by his Word, we are all eager to show love to everyone, rich or poor, finely dressed or shabby looking, as we reflect the love that God first showed to us.