



**Forgetting
what is behind
and straining
toward
what is ahead,
I press on
toward the goal
to win the prize
for which
God has called me
heavenward
in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 3:13-14

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 3 / 4, 2026**

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

 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm

507-354-6744

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

 **YouTube**
bit.ly/SJyoutube

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.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 3/4, 2026

*Welcome, Visitors! Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.
Visitors and members alike, use the same QR code for prayer requests.*



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Almighty God, we know that all things, past, present, and future are in your hands and under your control. Teach us to put our past under your merciful forgiveness, our present into your gracious providential care, and our future under your glorious promise of eternal salvation. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE *Service Setting 2* pg. 172

OPENING HYMN *O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace* CW 591

Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS pg. 172

LORD HAVE MERCY pg. 174

GLORY TO GOD pg. 176

PRAYER OF THE DAY pg. 178

Be seated

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ² He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

³ “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard than I

have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? ⁵ Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”

⁷ The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *God of Grace and God of Glory* CW 770

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:12-21

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ephesians 2:10

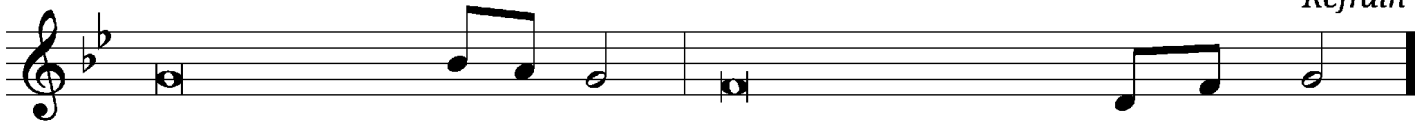


Refrain



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

Tone



Refrain

For we are God's hand - i - work, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-43

³³ “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵ “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

³⁸ “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰ “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹ “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“ ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

I’m But a Stranger Here

CW 853

SERMON

Move Forward in Faith

Philippians 3:12-21

Stand

NICENE CREED

pg. 180

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

pg. 182

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT

pg. 183

Guests, please see announcements for our policy on communion.

Stand

LORD’S PRAYER

pg. 185

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CW 660

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSING

pg. 187

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST

Pastor Jeff Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Susan Decker

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Ruth https://bit.ly/SJBibleClassonline
	9:30 am	Sunday School
Wednesday	6 pm	Handbells
	6:15 pm	Public School Catechism
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class: Isms
	7 pm	Bible Class: Bible Information Class
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Oct. 11	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Truth in Love Ministries https://bit.ly/SJBibleClassonline
	9:30 am	Sunday School
Wednesday, Oct. 14	6:15 pm	Public School Catechism
Thursday, Oct. 15	10 am	Bible Class: Isms
	7 pm	Bible Class: Bible Information Class
Saturday, Oct. 17	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 623.

Fruits of Faith:

\$8,381 Home Operations ~ YTD: \$658,786 / Needed: \$671,946

\$930 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$65,007 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)

\$1,110 MVL ~ YTD: \$43,009 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)

\$515 Building Fund

\$10 K-12 Tuition Assistance Fund

\$7 Food and Fellowship

\$.50 MLC/WLS Ministerial Student Assistance

\$100 Benevolence Fund

\$100 Technology Fund

\$46 Miscellaneous Receipts



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

Close Communion ~ At St. John's we practice "close communion." That is, we invite only those who are in fellowship with us as members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church (or of a synod that is in fellowship with us) to commune with us. We are in no way judging your personal faith. But we recognize that in the Lord's supper we enjoy not only a close communion, or fellowship, with God, but we also enjoy a close communion with one another as we publicly express our agreement in every teaching of God's Word. And we wouldn't presume to ask you to publicly confess your agreement with all that we teach and believe without first being instructed in what it is that we teach and believe. But if you do desire to commune with us, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

MLC Wind Symphony Concert ~ This is a special year for the United States of America. With joy, we're commemorating our 250th birthday, and with sorrow we're remembering the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. Two very different events. Two very different kinds of reflection. Please join the Martin Luther College Wind Symphony for "Reflections," a concert program commemorating our country's history through patriotic selections and both solemn and joyful remembrances. The free concert will be held in the MLC Auditorium on Sunday, October 4, at 1:00 pm. (Note the earlier start time!) Can't make it in person? Stream the live performance on MLC's YouTube channel.

Job Openings at MLC ~ Director of Finance: Plays a vital role in advancing MLC's mission of preparing future leaders for public ministry by providing strategic financial leadership, strengthening long-term sustainability, and partnering with college and Synod leaders. Director of Academic Assessment & Licensure Unit Leader: Advances excellence in teacher preparation at MLC through academic assessment, program improvement, and licensure oversight, helping ensure graduates are well prepared for service in WELS schools. Grounds Worker: Maintains MLC's grounds throughout the seasons, creating a welcoming and well-kept campus for students, workers, and visitors. Female Dormitory Custodian: Helps care for the place that our female students call home during their time at MLC. Assistant Baseball Coach: Promotes excellence in competition while supporting the formation of student-athletes for lives of Christian service. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

About the Cover ~ As Christians press on toward heaven we know that there is a long and difficult road ahead of us, because we live in a fallen world surrounded by sin. But St. Paul gives us this advice: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. He tells us to look ahead to Jesus, remembering what he has done for us, and knowing what lies ahead of us as a result, that is, the eternal glories of heaven.