

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER AND CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

APRIL 25 / 26, 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

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 25/26, 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: Tender Shepherd of the sheep:
Gently lead us by your Word so that we may always know your voice and follow only you. Make us obedient to your commands and eager to serve you, compelled by your love for us. May we, by your grace, also be enabled to lead others to your fold that all may know you as their Shepherd and share in the salvation you promise to all who put their faith in you. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE	<i>Service Setting 2</i>	pg. 172
OPENING HYMN	<i>Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus</i>	CW 704
<i>Stand</i>		
CONFESSION OF SINS		pg. 173
LORD HAVE MERCY		pg. 174
GLORY TO GOD		pg. 176
PRAYER OF THE DAY		pg. 178
<i>Be seated</i>		

ANTHEM
9:30 & 11am

The Shepherd's Call

arr. John C. Reim

*As you journey onward, I am near. I have made you mind and hold you dear.
Gladly I your Shepherd will be, tending to you faithfully.*

*When, away from me, your footsteps veer, know my rod and staff; the way is
clear.*

Though my face you now cannot see, hear my voice and follow me.

*When temptation smiles and doubters jeer, though you suffer trials, you need
not fear.*

Wolves may strike and others may flee. I am with you constantly.

*I am there to comfort and to cheer. From your eyes I'll banish ev'ry tear,
And my love will soon set you free when I call you home to me.*

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Shepherd of My Heart* arr. Francis Patrick O'Brian
9:30 & 11am Choir will sing the first refrain and the verses. Congregation
will join for the following refrains.

Refrain



Guide me, O shep-herd of my heart; lead me home-ward through the
dark, in-to ev-er-last-ing day. Show me the way of truth and
light; keep me al-ways in your sight. May my life nev-er
part from the shep-herd of my heart.

*My shepherd is the Lord, for nothing shall I want;
green are the pastures where I'm led to repose.
Near waters still and deep God will refresh my soul.
I am led onward in ways true to the Name. **Refrain***

*If I should walk one day into the vale of darkness,
no evil shall I fear with God at my side.
There with your crook and staff you give me strength and comfort;
you spread a banquet in the sight of my foes. **Refrain***

*You anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing;
goodness and kindness crown the days of my life.
Within the Lord's own house I dwell in peace for ever;
within the house of God my soul is at rest. **Refrain***

PSALM OF THE DAY *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* CW 555
6:30pm & 8am

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:14

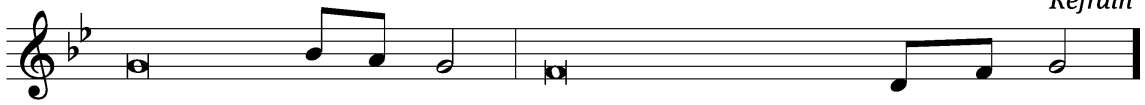


Refrain



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

Tone



I am the good shep - herd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

¹ “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
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.

CONFIRMATION ANTHEM 11am *Christ Be My Leader* CW 518

*Christ be my leader by night as by day;
safe through the darkness, for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care,
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.*

*Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him; though shifting as sand,
doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.*

*Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.*

OFFERING

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSING

pg. 171

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

CW 697

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST
SR. CHOIR
CONFIRMANDS
CELLO
VIOLIN
PIANO

Pastor Jeff Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Becky Berg
Adrian Smith
Emily Stoering
Isaiah Smith
Sebastian Smith, Ella Wurster
Laura Balza

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	Devon Gaedtke	St. John's Lutheran, Newtonburg, WI
8 am	Matthew Koelpin	Calvary Lutheran, Dallas, TX
9:30 am	Jared Schlittenhart	Peace Lutheran, Boulder, CO

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
	11 am	Confirmation
	7:30 pm	Women's Bible Class
Tuesday	4 pm	Oak Hills Service
	7 pm	Voters' Meeting
Wednesday	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class ~ Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Bible Class ~ Life of David
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, May 3 rd	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
	7:30 pm	Women's Bible Class
Monday, May 4 th	6:30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Tuesday, May 5 th	7 pm	Women of St. John's
Wednesday, May 6 th	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, May 7 th	10 am	Bible Class ~ Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Ask the Pastors
Saturday, May 9 th	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 618 with 485 receiving the Lord's Supper.

Fruits of Faith:

\$18,279 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$275,670 / YTD: \$281,489

\$1,625 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$27,280 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)

\$1,630 MVL ~ YTD: \$19,018 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)

\$280 Building Fund

\$25 K-12 Education Assistance

\$1,125 St. Paul's School

\$85 St. Paul's School Building Fund

\$200 Ministerial Education Endowment Fund

New Women's Bible Study ~ Join us Sunday evenings for a Bible Study for women by women. All lessons are pulled directly from the WELS Women's Ministry website, under the oversight of the pastors. Being a woman can be challenging, but it can also be so rewarding! Please come, bring a friend, bring your questions, and be ready to have a fun time learning about the Bible! What to expect: Fellowship! Random games! Guest pastor appearances! Learning about our Savior! Fun! When: most Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm in the St. John's basement. Upcoming dates: 4/26, 5/3, and 5/10. Contact Rachel Lang (rachelandabbott@gmail.com) or Pastor Guenther (507-240-2433 or pastorguenther@gmail.com) with questions.

Women of St. John's Picnic ~ All ladies are invited to a picnic at Kara Johnson's home on May 5 at 6:00 pm, 810 S Washington St. Besides having a meal we will play some games and share in some fun fellowship. If you know beforehand, please RSVP by signing up on the sheet in the new narthex. Otherwise, just show up! If you would like to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert, that would be great too. The main dish will be provided. Hope you can come and bring a friend along with you!

LWMS International Convention ~ Join us for the 63rd Annual LWMS Convention in Madison, WI from June 25th through June 28th. Registration is now open online, but is due to close June 1st (earlier if capacity is reached). The table in the new narthex has mail-in registration forms as well as detailed information sheets. We hope to see you there!

Voters' Meeting ~ Mark your calendars for the St. John's Voters' Meeting, April 28, 2026, at 7 PM! To make good use of our time together, we'll use a consent agenda. So, the meeting materials will be available this Saturday and Sunday (4/25-4/26) at the table adjacent to the narthex mailboxes for everyone interested—perfect for a thoughtful read with coffee. Come ready to engage, ask questions, and help us move forward together. All members are welcome.

Ask the Pastors ~ May 7, 7-8pm Come to the next “Ask the Pastor” evening and bring a friend! We have had really enjoyed listening to and learning from the pastors' responses in the past events we have had! Bring your questions that evening or place your questions in the box on the table in the narthex area. There is a sign-up sheet next to the box to help us plan for refreshments. Hope to see you there!

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasure Haus Board of Directors Update ~ A noteworthy milestone was observed at our Treasure Haus' annual meeting. Our MVL association members' support for MVL has passed the \$2 million mark. Over the past forty years, this support has been shown in multiple ways: volunteering time, donating monetarily and with materials, helping to relocate, serving on the Board, and promoting our mission. Our Board thanks all of your members for the multiple ways they have contributed. Join us in asking God to bless the Treasure Haus as we aid MVL's mission “to assist families in training students for Christian lives on earth and in Heaven.”

Dig In Gala ~ Don't Miss It! Thursday, April 30 is the *last day* to purchase tickets for the St. Paul's School Dig In Gala, benefiting the School Building Campaign. Join us for a groovy evening of great food, fun, and exciting auction items. Student auction items will be available in an online auction starting May 4, so you don't have to attend to bid on those. Event details, tickets, and online bidding are all available here: <https://digingala2026.ourschool.support>. We hope to see you there! Have a vintage car you'd like to show? We've still got space for yours at Turner Hall on the evening of the Gala! Please contact Amy Rich at stampinnut@me.com.

MVL Drama Presents! ~ We're Crazy for You! Get ready to tap your toes and fall in love with our spring musical, *Crazy for You!* This high-energy romantic comedy follows Bobby Child, a New York banker with dreams of being a Broadway star, who's sent to a sleepy Nevada town to foreclose on a struggling theater. Instead, he finds himself falling head over heels for the spirited Polly Baker—and hatching a wild plan to save the theater with song, dance, and a whole lot of mistaken identity! Packed with classic Gershwin tunes, big dance numbers, cowboys, showgirls, and plenty of laughs and silliness, *Crazy for You* is a feel-good celebration of chasing your dreams. Join us this spring for a show that's full of heart, humor, and show-stopping fun—you won't want to miss it! Show Dates & Details: May 1st & 2nd at 7:00 PM, May 3rd at 2:00 PM All performances will be held in the MVL Fine Arts Center. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

About the Cover ~ American impressionistic artist Katherine Brown from Memphis, Tennessee (1948--) is the creator of the artwork on the cover of the bulletin. It depicts Jesus the Good Shepherd tightly hugging a lamb and reminding us that we are God's people and the sheep of his hand. Jesus bought us with his own blood, and with undying love he feeds us and leads us to the pasture of our Heavenly Father, free from the fear of our enemies.

Confirmands 2026

*Jacob Arthur Baganz
Lillian Grace Brandes
Larken Abbey Filzen
Dylan Timothy Fischer
Alex Logan Goeglein
Amelia Lynn Hermanson
Emma Christine Martin
Alivia Brynn Meyer
Cody Alan Schroeder
Weston Kurk Scriver
Raelee Kay Shoen
Nathanael Edward Smith
Johnathan Paul Stoering
Evelyn Vera Anneliese Strackbein
Masen Charlie Weisensel
Camden Kade Wendland*

*John 14:6
Proverbs 22:1
Psalm 27:1
Revelation 2:10
Proverbs 3:5-6
Joshua 1:9
Psalm 18:32
Philippians 4:13
Matthew 6:33
Matthew 28:19-20
Proverbs 3:5-6
2 Peter 3:18
Isaiah 40:31
Psalm 27:1
Psalm 91:4
John 8:12*

Former St. John's Confirmands

1 year ago 2024

Britta Berg
Liza Filzen
Judah Guenther
Jakobi Olson
Mia Schmoller
Rogan Scriver
Gabriella Smith
Eric Ulicky

5 years ago 2021

Grace Biesterfeld
Kaden Peterson
Benjamin Price
Dylan Schroeder
Gage Stanoch
Tatum Toltzman
Zachery Toltzman
Claudia Weisensel

10 years ago 2016

Michael Bovee
Carter Brandes
Kincaid Diersen
Lee Fischer
Logan Fischer
Cole Gostonczik
Megan Jewison
Isaak Pehling
Molly Scheid
Mara Weisensel
Noah Wellner

25 years ago 2001

Martha Beatty
Ethan Cherney
Briana Czer
Amy Enter
Brandon Forst
Katherine Hartwig
Jonas Leyrer
Sarah Loe
Timothy Mack
Jerry Marks
Ashley Marks
Justin Marks
Adam Oldre
Shannon Russell
Jenny Spurgin
Amanda Tustin
Jeremy Uecker
Amanda Waibel
John Wendland
Jessica Carlson

30 years ago 1996

Russell Buck
Jessi Bloedel
Jennifer Carlson
Patrick Cortright
Jeremy Fluegge
Jon Hermanson
Sara Lingl
Clete Olson
James Rieger
Katie Schwartz

40 years ago 1986

Andrew Gronholz
Mindy Grunst
Jesse Gustafson
Troy Halvorson
Jennifer Hermanson
Dana Hess
Gregg Juhnke
Amy Kopacek
Bethany Kuster
Tammy Marti
Tamara Mehlhop
Kevin Purrier
Lance Toltzman
Trevor Toltzman
Brett Wendler
Victor Wilcox

50 years ago 1976

Miriam Backer
Ann Bode
Douglas Dallmann
Kimberly Jobe
Scott Licht
Daniel Meinzer
Richard Miller
Alan Ring
Marie Ring

60 years ago 1966

Kathleen Blackstad
Mary Brick
Naomi Duehlmeier
James Gronholz
Carol Hartwig
Gerald Johnson
Marcus Manthey
Duane Milbrett
Richard Schwartz
Marilyn Timian
Larry Vogel
Marjorie Vogel

70 years ago 1956

Henry Karstens, Jr.
Beverly Reiner
Claire Rolloff
Carlyle Stadick
Richard Stegemann
Gerald Tjernagel
Ann Vogel
Paulette Vorwerk
Thomas Wacker
Norma Wieland