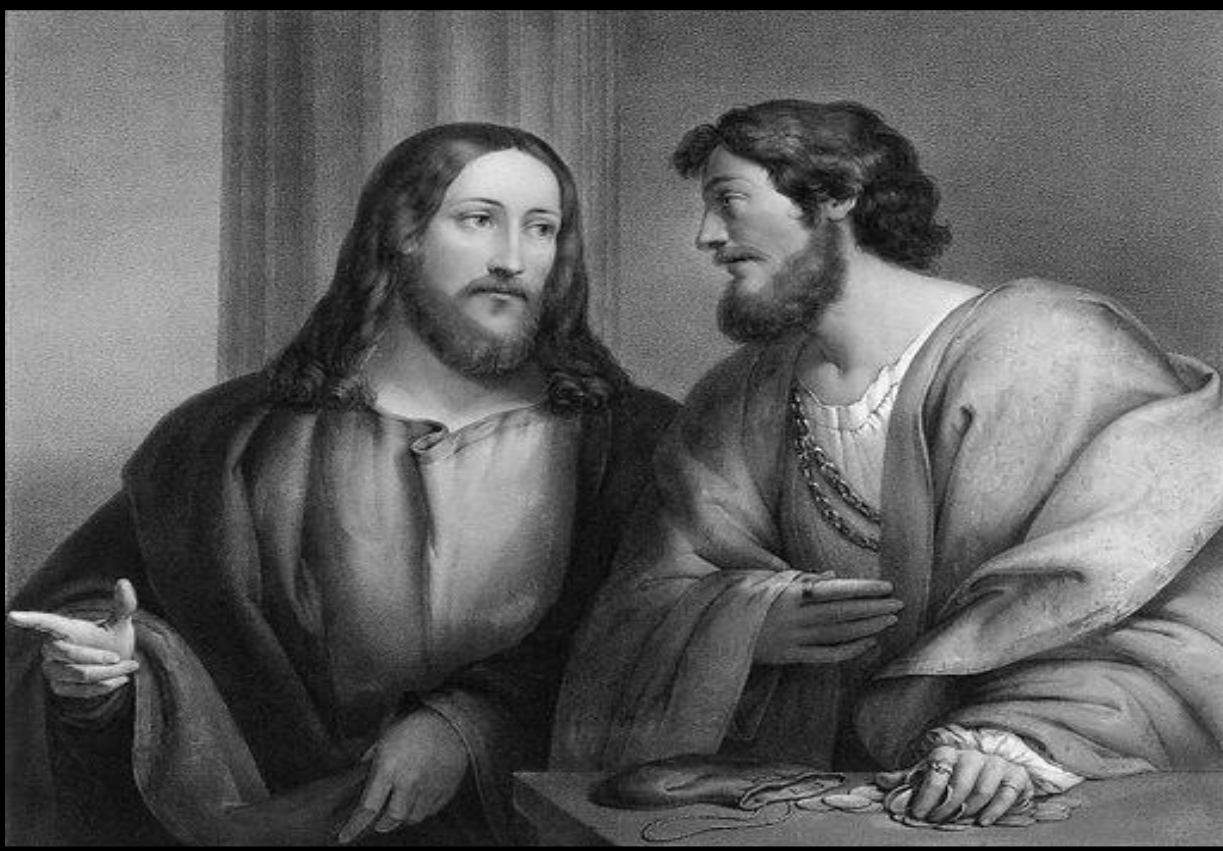


St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 20/21, 2025

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

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Pastor Rob Guenther
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507-240-2433

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20/21, 2025

To prepare for the Lord's Supper, the questions for examination are on pg. 295 in the front of the hymnal.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Jesus, we rejoice that you call sinners like us to be a part of your Kingdom. You not only forgive us and redeem us, but you employ us to be a part of your mission to rescue lost souls. What grace upon grace! Help us in our mission to reach the lost with your saving grace to your glory! Amen!

ORDER OF SERVICE *Service Setting 1* pg. 154

ANTHEM *All I Have Is Christ* CW 580

*I once was lost in darkest night, yet thought I knew the way.
The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave.
I had no hope that you would own a rebel to your will,
and if you had not loved me first I would refuse you still.*

*But as I ran my hellbound race indiff'rent to the cost,
you looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross.
And I beheld God's love displayed—you suffered in my place.
You bore the wrath reserved for me; now all I know is grace. (Refrain)*

*Refrain Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.
Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.*

*Now, Lord, I would be yours alone and live so all might see
the strength to follow your commands could never come from me.
O Father, use my ransomed life in any way you choose,
and let my song forever be—my only boast is you. (Refrain)*

Stand**CONFESSION OF SINS**

pg. 154

LORD HAVE MERCY

pg. 156

GLORY TO GOD

pg. 157

PRAYER OF THE DAY

pg. 160

Be seated**FIRST LESSON**

Ezekiel 2:8-3:11

⁸ But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious people; open your mouth and eat what I give you.”

⁹ Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll,
¹⁰ which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

¹ And he said to me, “Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel.” ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

³ Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

⁴ He then said to me: “Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them. ⁵ You are not being sent to a people of obscure speech and strange language, but to the people of Israel— ⁶ not to many peoples of obscure speech and strange language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely if I had sent you to them, they would have listened to you. ⁷ But the people of Israel are not willing to listen to you because they

are not willing to listen to me, for all the Israelites are hardened and obstinate. ⁸ But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. ⁹ I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people.”

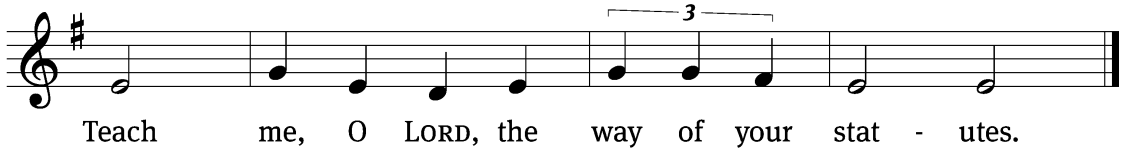
¹⁰ And he said to me, “Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you. ¹¹ Go now to your people in exile and speak to them. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says,’ whether they listen or fail to listen.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY***Teach Me, O LORD***

Psalm 119B

Refrain*Tone*

Teach me, LORD, the way of / your decrees,
that I may follow it / to the end.

Give me understanding, so that I may / keep your law
and obey it with / all my heart.

Direct me in the path of / your commands,
for there I / find delight. *Refrain*

Turn my eyes away from / worthless things;
preserve my life according / to your word.

Fulfill your promise to your / servant,
so that you / may be feared.

How I long for your / precepts!

In your righteousness pre- / serve my life.

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

Ephesians 2:4-10

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 6:33



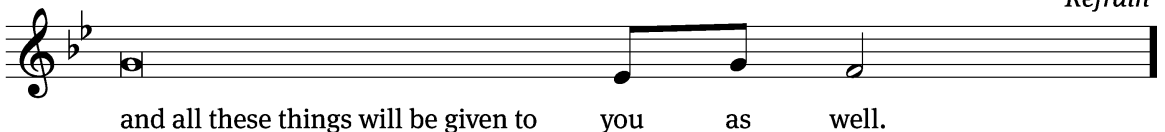
Refrain



Tone



Refrain



GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Is the World to Me

CW 717

SERMON

Jesus Calls Sinners

Matthew 9:9-13

Stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH pg. 164

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT pg. 165

Please see announcements for our communion practice.

Stand

LORD'S PRAYER pg. 168

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give* CW 896

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *What Grace is This* CW 395

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSING pg. 170

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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PREACHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGANIST

JR. CHOIR

Pastor Aaron Dolan

Pastor Rob Guenther

Jon Roux

Emily Stoering

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
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
Wednesday	6 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Saturday, Sep 27	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Sep 28	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
Wednesday, Oct 1	6 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, Oct 2	10 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 626

Fruits of Faith:

\$14,401 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$658,522/ YTD: \$621,495
\$2,435 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$73,846 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)
\$1,155 MVL ~ YTD: \$45,946 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)
\$140 Building Fund
\$125 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$725 Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund
\$410 K-12 Education Assistance
\$160 St. Paul's School
\$60 Martin Luther College
\$70 LWMS
\$353 Designated Miscellaneous

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.

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

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. Carpool Sign-up in the Narthex.

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.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Interested in traveling with a group of like-minded believers? The OWLS (WELS Seniors) is partnering with Father's World Tours to offer a New Year's (Dec 31-Jan 13) trip to sunny Southern California (Rose Parade, Reagan Library, San Diego, Palm Springs, Joshua Tree NP) that also includes a 7-night Princess cruise to the Mexican Riviera. All tours involve daily devotions and WELS weekend worship. The tour is open to W/ELS members of all ages. Registration closes on October 1 (earlier if all spots are sold). Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact us (steve@fathersworldtours.com, 507-217-1731) to learn more.

Autumn Colors: MLC Wind Symphony Concert - October 5 ~ As summer gives way to fall, a tangible excitement is often in the air. A new school year, new friends, new experiences, the opportunity to start off fresh. Music ensembles are no exception. Each year brings a brand-new ensemble together—a mix of new and returning faces and the challenge of digging into new music. Please join the Martin Luther College Wind Symphony as they begin their new year of making music together with music inspired by the changing of the season. They'll present *Autumn Colors* at 3:00 pm on Sunday, October 5, in the WCC Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public. Can't join us live? Check out the livestream of the concert on MLC's YouTube page.

"FREE Fun for ALL at MLC Homecoming ~ On Saturday, October 11, the MLC Alumni Association invites you to campus for Homecoming. The events begin with the celebratory 15th Sprinter Fun Run/Walk at 9 AM. This 1-mile course (all stroller-accessible) meanders throughout the main campus. Learn more about the Fun Run and sign up at bit.ly/MLCFunRun2025. Anyone registered ahead of time (walk-ins are welcome) is eligible to win some amazing door prizes! Homecoming is reimagined this year, with even more activities on campus! Check out www.mlc-wels.edu/events/homecoming for the full slate of events and to register. Come see what is new at your college of ministry!"

Save the Date ~ Whether or not a 5K race is your thing has no bearing on our next School Capital Campaign event. Why? Because this is a .5K...yes, a POINT 5K, and it's for everyone. This is no joke! We are thrilled to bring you the Second Annual - and bigger and better - .5K event, where there is something for all ages...and definitely no running involved. Want to participate in the "race?" Great! Do you eat? Super! We'll have food! Do you bowl, even if just for fun? There will be that, too! Do you burp? NICE! We've got a contest! And the most serious of all (for real): a bean bag tournament! Join us for all the fun on Sunday, October 12, at Kegel Klub in New Ulm. Come and go as it works for you. Have fun as you donate to the St. Paul's School Capital Campaign! More details coming soon.

You are invited to Auxiliary Day at Martin Luther College ~ The Ladies' Auxiliary promotes interest in Martin Luther College, provides Christian fellowship opportunities for our members, and supports students through scholarships, special non-budgeted projects, events, and your prayers. Our Annual Auxiliary Day is Saturday, October 4, on the beautiful MLC campus in New Ulm, Minnesota. Enjoy fellowship, hear student presentations—including a sneak peek at the fall presentation of *Little Women: The Broadway Musical*—and help us choose the 2025-26 classroom projects we will fund. Join us and get in on the fun! If you can't make it in person, check our website after the meeting to see what projects were selected. Visit mlc-wels.edu/ladies-auxiliary.

About the Cover ~ Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector, considered to be the worst of the worst in his society to be a part of his team to save lost souls. Jesus calls us, too, sinners that we are, to be a part of mission to save the lost. He's rescued us, redeemed us, and now equips and employs us to be a part of the mission to save other lost souls for eternity. God help us in our task to his glory!

MN Valley Circuit **FALL RALLY**

October 4

St. John's Lutheran Church

119 West Broadway Street

REDWOOD FALLS, MN

Coffee & Registration 8 - 9 am

Program: 9 am - 12:15 pm with lunch to follow.

Co-Hosted by Zion, Morgan MN.

TRAINING WORKERS FOR God's Harvest

Then he said to his disciples,
"The harvest is plentiful but
the workers are few.

Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out workers
into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:37-38

Speaker of the Day
Pastor Abram Degner,
Academia Cristo



No RSVP required.
Please contact Deb Wormer at 507-430-6565
with any questions.