

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

Though your
sins are like
scarlet,

they shall be
as white
as snow.

Isaiah 1:18

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 18/19, 2023

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

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
office@stjohnsnewulm.com
 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
354-6744
 YouTube bit.ly/SJyoutube

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

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

Prayer before worship: Heavenly Father, forgive us for the times that our worship has been empty and hollow as we just go through the motions. Forgive us for the times our "prayers" have been rattled off from memory without any thought. Lead us to a godly sorrow over our sin that leads to a genuine repentance. Then lead us to trust in your grace which you give without cause; that through Jesus and his work for us by his perfect life and by his cross has removed the stain of our guilt and sin and made us clean and pure in your sight. Finally, fill our hearts with a gratitude that is eager to live for you in all that we do. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

HANDBELLS - 6:30 pm & 8 am ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*** Linda Scholes

OPENING HYMN ***Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly*** **CW748**

CONFESSION p. 188

ANTHEM - 8 am ***May the Mind of Christ My Savior*** **CW93 467**

- 1 *May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,
By his love and pow'r inspiring All I do or say.*
- 2 *May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow'r.*
- 3 *May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in ev'rything,
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing.*
- 4 *May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,
Him exalting, self abasing—This is victory!*
- 5 *May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go.*
- 6 *May his spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him.*

ANTHEM - 9:30 & 11 am ***And Can It Be?*** Dan Forrest

*And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?
And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain? For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God, shouldst die for me?*

*He left His Father's throne above, So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.
And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?*

*No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne, And claim the crown through Christ my own.
Amazing love, how can it be that Thou, my God shouldst die for me?*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 1:10-18 (EHV)

Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹ What do your many sacrifices mean to me? says the LORD. I have more than enough rams as burnt offerings and enough fat from well-fed animals. I am not pleased with the blood of bulls or the blood of lambs and male goats. ¹² When you come to appear before me, who has asked for this from your hands: this trampling on my courts? ¹³ Stop bringing worthless offerings! Your incense is an abomination to me. I cannot stand your sinful assemblies on the new moons, Sabbaths, and holy days.

¹³ Deep in my soul I hate your new moons and your appointed feasts. They have become a burden to me. I am tired of putting up with them. ¹⁵ When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you. Indeed, even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶ Wash yourselves. Purify yourselves. Remove your evil deeds from my sight. Stop doing evil. ¹⁷ Learn to do good. Seek justice. Relieve the oppressed. Seek justice for the fatherless. Plead for the widow.

¹⁷ Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD. Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow. Though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY

Oh, Blest the House

CW760

9:30 & 11 am Congregation sings odd verses; Choir sings even verses

SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:1–8

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the

renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

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!

Be faithful, even to the point of death,

and I will give you life as your vic - tor's crown.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14–30

¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²²“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸“ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

CW798

SERMON

Isaiah 1:10-18

You’re Being So Unreasonable!

I. Be Reasonable: Empty Motions Don’t Work

II. Be Reasonable: Trust in My Cleansing

III. Be Reasonable: Learn to Do Right to Show Thanks

NICENE CREED

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OFFERING / COMMUNION

If you are not a member of a WELS/ELS congregation, please see the explanation in the announcements.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* **CW663**

PRAYERS (*Contemporary*) **and BLESSING**

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† † †

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGAN
HANDBELLS
CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Gr. K-4)
SENIOR CHOIR

Pastor Rob Guenther
Pastor Jeff Bovee
Craig Hirschmann
Becky Berg
Kirstie Klug
Craig Hirschmann

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the QR code to
sign our Guest Register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	8 am	Gr. K-4 sing
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Book of Job
	3 pm	MLC Wind Symphony Concert
	7 pm	Youth Group: Game Night
Mon	6:30 pm	Endowment Committee Meeting
Tue	6 pm	Joint Council Meeting at St. Paul's Church
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wed	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
	6:30 pm	Thanksgiving Service
Thu	9 am	Thanksgiving Service
Sat	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

Thanksgiving: Wednesday: 6:30 pm; Thursday: 9 am
 Saturday: 6:30 pm
 Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 26	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Nov 27	1 pm	Stewardship Meeting
Nov 28	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Nov 29	11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Services
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	7:15 pm	Choir
Nov 30	10:30 am	Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	7 pm	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Dec 1	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Dec 2		Christmas for Kids
	6:30 pm	Worship
Dec 3	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30	Sunday School and Bible Class: Book of Job
Dec 4	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Dec 5	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Dec 6	11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Services
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	7:15 pm	Choir
Dec 7	10:30 am	Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	7 pm	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Dec 8	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Dec 9	9 am	Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 507.

Fruits of faith given:

\$13,205	Home Operations ~ \$30,392 is our weekly need		
\$875	MVL ~ \$1,278 is our weekly need	\$400	Christian Aid & Relief
\$1,370	Missions ~ \$1,818 is our weekly need	\$100	Benevolence Fund
\$725	Building Fund	\$75	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$135	75th Ann. Sanctuary Renovation	\$60	Endowment Fund
\$50	Youth Group	\$44	Food & Fellowship

Has Your Contact Information Changed? ~ Please contact the church office at 354-6744 or office@stjohnsnewulm.com with any changes to your **home address, cell phone number, and email address**. Also, if your children have moved, please update us with their new contact information so we can better serve them, too. Thank you!

Youth Group: Art and Game Night ~ this Sunday from 7 pm - 9:30-ish. Come read some of the Bible, pray together, hang out, make art, and play board games/video games(bring a switch if you want). Snacks will be provided. Bring \$5 to help cover costs.
RSVP <https://forms.gle/cn1fLeVudBLncgCw5> to help us see how many snacks to buy or just show up.

Women of St. John's ~ On Tuesday, Dec. 5th, at 7 - 8:30 pm, there will be a Christmas party for all the women of St. John's. Come enjoy Advent devotions, yummy food, and Christian fellowship with other ladies of our church. Instead of a gift exchange this year we are collecting gift cards for anyone who wants to donate to the second career students attending MLC.

MLC Advent Books ~ have arrived! If you preordered a book, you will find it in your bulletin box. The books are free thanks to a generous donor who has covered the cost. Thank you!

Pew Refinishing ~ To save about \$7,000 in Sanctuary Renovations costs, the Facility Task Force has asked Gerry Horner to head up volunteers who have had some experience in wood finishing to take the task of refinishing the pew top rails. He is working sample trials on a pew that will be replaced by chairs to create a good procedure for others to follow. The hope is to refinish all pew rails before Christmas. Please send a willingness to help email to sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com; sdeters46@gmail.com; or call Gerry Horner at 354-8334 to let him know directly.

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.

Communion Announcement: 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 ~ tim•bre | 'tambər | The character or quality of a musical sound or voice as distinct from its pitch and intensity. In colloquial terms, musicians often refer to timbre as “color.” In a wind band, no single instrument family is considered the “core” timbre of the ensemble. Rather, the wind band is a varied mix of woodwinds, brass, and percussions, equally contributing their unique colors to bring a composition to life. Please join the Martin Luther College Wind Symphony for Colors and Contours on Sunday, November 19, at 3 pm in the MLC Auditorium. Also featured on the program are three student conductors who are majoring in instrumental music: Richard Giese, Joseph Panning, and Emma Pufahl. The concert is free and open to the public. Can't make it in person? Catch the livestream on MLC's YouTube channel.

St. Paul's School Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale ~ benefitting the St. Paul's School Building Project will be held at St. Paul's church the weekend of November 18. If you would like to make a donation to the Bake Sale, please drop off your donations in the church kitchen before 6 pm on Saturday or before 8 am on Sunday. Please have your items packaged and priced to sell. For a suggested price list, head here at bit.ly/SPbakesalepricing. The Pancake Breakfast will be held for a freewill donation to the Building Project on Sunday, November 19, from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm in the St. Paul's Church Fellowship Hall. Lots of help is still needed. Please indicated your willingness to help by signing up here at signup.com/go/BFoPseV. For questions please contact Amy Rich at stampinnut@me.com.

MLC Christmas Concert ~ Martin Luther College's highly anticipated Christmas concert will be presented Saturday, December 2, at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 3, at 4 pm in the MLC Chapel of the Christ. The combined choirs of Martin Luther College, the Wind Symphony, and the Hosanna Ringers invite you to join them in this musical celebration of the birth of Christ. Under the theme, Unto Us a Child Is Born, the program features choruses and solos from Handel's Messiah, as well as settings of familiar carols and Christmas compositions centering on the grace and joy that entered the world through Christ: The Son was sent into the world that the world might be saved through him. All are welcome as we open the Advent season with this joyous campus tradition!

Job Openings ~ Assistant head cook needed at St Paul's Lutheran School. Job duties include but

are not limited to preparing & serving lunch and clean up. If interested please pick up an application at St Paul's school or church office. If you have questions please feel free to contact me at cook@splnewulm.org.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School is in need of bus drivers. If you are interested in becoming a bus driver, contact Ray Vulcan at rayv@palmerbusservice.com.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School is also looking a substitute worker for the kitchen. Are you interested in casual employment or volunteering in the MVL kitchen? This is an on-call position to substitute on days regular workers are gone. Please contact Beth Fluegge for more information at foodservice@mvlhs.org or call or text 507-993-5195.

Martin Luther College is accepting applications for a full-time Director of Financial Aid, a full-time Director of Alumni Relations and a part-time Assistant Coaches in baseball and tennis. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

About the Cover ~ Though our sins have stained our souls like blood stains the hands of a murderer, God in his grace has removed our guilt. He has washed us of the stain of sin and has made our souls as pure and clean as freshly fallen snow. Now let's live for him in thanks for all that he's done for us in his "unreasonable" grace!