

*"Let both grow together until the harvest.
At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds
and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and
bring it into my barn." Matthew 13:30*



Eighth Sunday After Pentecost – July 22 / 23, 2023



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street
New Ulm, MN

www.stjohnsnewulm.com

Email: office@stjohnsnewulm.com

 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm

507-354-6744



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

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



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.

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Two* page 172

CONFESSION p. 173

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY *Psalms 19*

SECOND LESSON

Romans 1:18–25

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

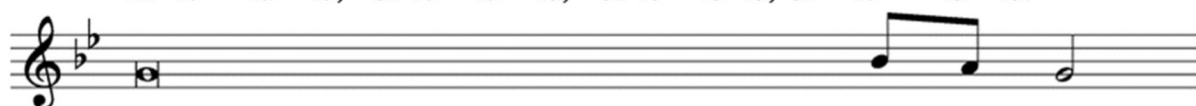
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain



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



Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!



How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

²⁴Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷“The owner's servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

²⁸“ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

²⁹“ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ”

³⁶Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴²They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY

Come, You Thankful People, Come

CW491

SERMON

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

LOOK WHAT’S GROWING IN THE LORD’S FIELD

1. SOWING SEEDS

2. GROWING WEEDS

3. JUDGING DEEDS

APOSTLES’ CREED

p. 181

PRAYER of the CHURCH

p. 182

OFFERING

see announcement

HYMN

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

CW488

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

p. 171

CLOSING HYMN *Let All Things Now Living*

CW 507

† † †

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGAN

Pastor Jeff Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Jon Roux

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the QR code to
sign our Guest Register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
	12:30 pm	Walk in the Bavarian Blast Parade: John and Paul Ministries
	6:45 pm	Softball Game at Harman Park
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Voters' Meeting
Wed	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
	7 pm	Campus Facilities Taskforce Meeting
Fri	9 am	Summer Fellowship at Hermann Heights Park
	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
Sat	10 am	Basement Reserved
	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 8 & 9:30 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul 30	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
	6:45 pm	Softball Game at Harman Park
Aug 2	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Aug 4	9 am	Summer Fellowship at North Park
Aug 5		Softball Tournament at Harman Park
		NO Saturday Service
Aug 6	8 & 10 am	75th Anniversary Worship Services
	12 pm	Fellowship Meal and Program at MLC
Aug 7	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Aug 8	9 am	Art Camp
	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Aug 9	9 am	Art Camp
Aug 10	9 am	Art Camp
Aug 11	9 am	Summer Fellowship at Harman Park
Aug 12	6:30 pm	Worship

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 349 with 287 attending Communion.

Fruits of faith given:

\$24,578	Home Operations ~ \$19,371 is our weekly need	\$25	Iris Boxes
\$662	MVL ~ \$1,278 is our weekly need	\$106	MLC Ladies' Auxiliary
\$1,997	Missions ~ \$1,818 is our weekly need	\$100	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$467	Building Fund	\$100	LWMS
\$4,300	Sanctuary Renovation	\$100	Benevolence Fund
\$220	Ministerial Education	\$100	Kitchen Fund

Voters' Meeting ~ Three bigger items needing voters' direction are on the agenda. The items include constitutional amendments, a contract for sanctuary renovations, and a review of the current budget deficit. The need is to have as many voters as possible in attendance this Tuesday, July 25, at 7 pm.

New and Improved Website ~ go to www.stjohnsnewulm.com to see our new and improved church website! We thank Jamie Milbrett for all the time put into making it look great!

Sanctuary Renovation ~ You can see the plans to renovate and thus beautify the sanctuary in the new narthex. This project will replace the flooring in the chancel and its auxiliary rooms and the nave, refinish the pews, replace the pew cushions, provide more handicap seating, designate a space for the handbells, and paint the walls. A member of the Facilities Task Force Committee is at the table with printouts of the layout along with examples of the selected floor tile and the pew fabric. Please stop by and see the renovation plans.

Summer Fellowship in the Park ~ The Friday morning women's Bible study group invites all parents and their children to join them during the summer months for Christian fellowship in the park. We meet at 9 am at the listed park for free play and a picnic lunch (optional). Feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Erika Grundmeier at (989) 529-8729.

July 28 Hermann Heights Park: 14 Monument St.

August 4 North Park: 1801 N. State St. (Splash Pad available starting later in the morning)

August 11 Harman Park: 101 N. Garden St.

75th Anniversary History Book ~ Sign up for a printed copy of the 80+ page 75th anniversary history book authored by Pastor Emeritus Wayne Laitinen. We are not selling the book, but would like to know how many members would like a printed copy. A free-will offering may be placed in the basket next to the signup sheet to help offset our printing costs (roughly \$6/book). A digital version of the book will be available on the St John's website.

Handbell Players Needed! ~ The handbell choir will be playing for the Anniversary Service on Aug 6. Some of our regular players cannot play, so now is your chance! If you'd like to try it without a long term commitment, this is the right time. Practices are July 26 and August 2 at 6 pm. Even if you can only make one of the practices, I think you'll be fine. Please contact Becky Berg at 989-280-7674 or rberg@mvlhs.org as soon as you can! Thank you!

75th Anniversary Choir ~ A special anniversary service choir is being assembled to sing for the anniversary services on August 6. Participating in this choir would involve two rehearsals: Wednesday, July 26 and Wednesday, August 2 beginning at 7 pm. The rehearsals will take place in the church balcony. There will also be a warm-up on Sunday, August 6, before the service. If you are interested in being part of this special choir, please contact Craig Hirschmann at chirschmann1@gmail.com. Please indicate preferred voice: soprano, alto, tenor, or bass.

Art Camp and Vacation Bible School (VBS) ~ Follow the QR codes to register for Art Camp and VBS. Or go to bit.ly/SJArtCamp2023 and bit.ly/SJvbs2023 (after paying be sure to come back to the registration page to submit the registration).

New This Year ~ There will be a potluck meal following the last day of VBS. The donation sign up for the meal can be found at bit.ly/SJvbsMeal2023.

Summer Events at St. John's!	
Art Camp  Tuesday, August 8 through Thursday, August 10 from 9 - 11:30 am Grades 3 - 8 \$25 per camper 	Vacation Bible School  Tuesday, August 15 through Thursday, August 17 from 9 - 11:30 am Grades PreK4 - 2 Sign up for the meal at: bit.ly/SJvbsMeal2023 \$5 per camper (\$10/family) 

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.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Walk in the Bavarian Blast Parade ~ Join John and Paul Ministries in walking in the Bavarian Blast Parade this Sunday, July 23rd beginning at 12:30 pm! We will hand out John and Paul Ministries sunglasses and information regarding outreach events and worship schedules! Please sign-up to walk at johnandpaulministries.com under the Bavarian Blast Parade tab.

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) cordially invites you to attend the Concert in the Park, at German Park in New Ulm on Monday evening, July 24, beginning at 7 pm. Larry Mages & The Mages Family Band will be performing. In case of inclement weather, the concert would be held at the New Ulm Community Center. Following the concert, OWLS members and friends are invited to the Fireside Room at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, for some root beer floats. Reservations are not required.

Ice Cream Social ~ Trinity Lutheran in Nicollet invites you to their Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, July 26th from 4:30 - 7 pm. The menu is BBQs, egg salad and ham sandwiches, baked beans, pie, ice cream, desserts, root beer floats and beverages. Join us for fellowship and fun. Everyone is welcome.

St. Paul's School ~ During the 2022-2023 school year, St. Paul's School received \$654.25 from reward and label programs that we participate in. The money gets deposited in our School Reserve Fund. We currently collect Hy-Vee UPC labels, Country Hearth, Village Hearth, Artisan Hearth Bread labels, and Fiber Up product labels. We encourage families to save the labels and bring them to school or to church. Deposit the labels in the appropriately marked receptacles. We also participate in online programs for BoxTops, Cash Wise Rewards, and Casey's Rewards. Just log onto their websites, sign up, and start saving for St. Paul's School!

Domestic Abuse Class ~ What is domestic abuse? What does the Bible say about it? And, what can you say to someone who is stuck in an abusive situation? Pastor Frank Italiano, who has had extensive experience dealing with domestic abuse will lead this class along with "Mary," one of his members who has escaped an abusive marriage of almost 20 years. The class is open to all. Because of the topic, it will include "mature" content. The class will meet via Zoom Wednesdays June 21 through July 26, 2023. It will be from 8 to 9:30 pm. Once you register, a secure zoom link will be emailed to the email address you provide. Register at: <https://trinitycrete.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/149/responses/new>.

Job Opening ~ Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School is in need of bus drivers. If you are interested in becoming a bus driver for the 2023-2024 school year, contact Ray Vulcan at rayv@palmerbusservice.com.

Staff Minister Jim Dretske
Teacher Christine Baganz
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Phil Sriver
Teacher Emily Stoering
St. John's Church Office

sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com
cbaganz@splnewulm.org
lbalza@splnewulm.org
pscriver@splnewulm.org
estoering@splnewulm.org
office@stjohnsnewulm.com

About the Cover~ Yes, they're difficult to tell apart. The tares or weeds sown among the wheat to which Jesus referred was the Bearded Darnel, a weed that is more than just a nuisance because it harbors a kind of fungus that is poisonous to people. For someone to purposely sow the seeds of such a plant into someone's field would be completely malicious and evil. But such is the work of the devil who sows his seed of unbelief by means of those who follow and promote his lies.

Thankfully, God, who is the Judge of all, knows his own. Even though, this side of heaven, we may not be able to distinguish between those who are God's elect and those who are not, in the end, God will reveal the difference. Believers will be blessed eternally. But sadly, unbelievers will be punished along with the devil whose work turned them away from Christ their Savior.