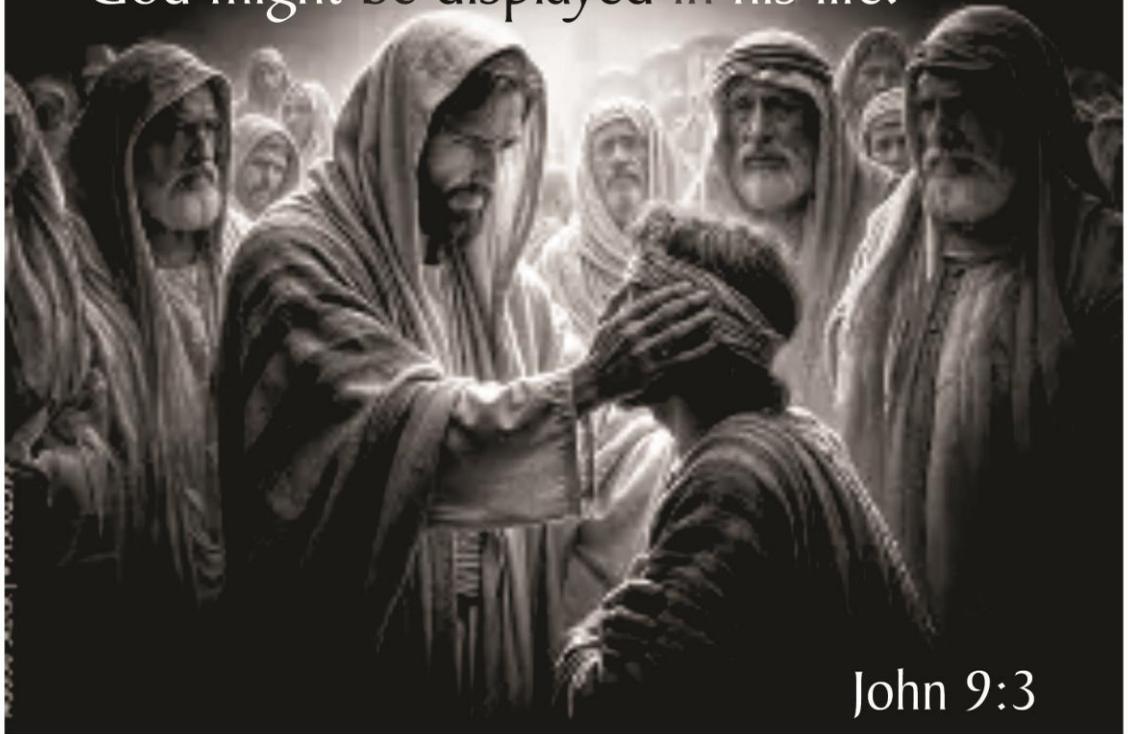


"But this happened so that the work of
God might be displayed in his life."



John 9:3

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 14 / 15, 2026

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

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 **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.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴“For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. ¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. ¹⁶ I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. ¹⁷ But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in utter shame.

¹⁸“Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! ¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the LORD? ²⁰ You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.” ²¹ It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 27C

The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

Refrain



The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion— of
whom shall I be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

Tone



Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;
be merciful to me and / answer me.
Do not hide your / face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.
Do not reject me or for- / sake me,
God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,
the LORD will re- / ceive me.
I remain confi- / dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.
Wait / for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.

**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***

GOSPEL

John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

**PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST**

**Pastor Jeff Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Becky Berg**

Acknowledgments

Setting One 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 – Shark Tank
	9:30 am	Sunday School
Tuesday	4 pm	Oak Hills Service
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	11 am	Lenten Worship Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	5 pm	Midweek Lenten Meal
	5:15 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
Thursday	7:15 pm	Choir
	10 am	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Bible Class – The Life of David
Saturday	8 am	Board of Properties Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Mar. 22 nd	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 pm	Sunday School & Bible Class
Wednesday, Mar. 25 th	11 am	Lenten Worship Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	5 pm	Midweek Lenten Meal
	5:15 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
Thursday, Mar. 26 th	7:15 pm	Choir
	10 am	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Bible Class – The Life of David
Saturday, Mar. 28 th	8:30 am	Easter for Kids
	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 432.

Fruits of Faith:

\$26,610 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$172,294 / YTD: \$182,521
\$2,464 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$17,717 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)
\$927 MVL ~ YTD: \$11,214 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)
\$1,100 Wish List: Piano ~ YTD: \$19,315 (\$21,400)
\$480 Building Fund
\$144 Food + Fellowship
\$410 K-12 Education Assistance
\$34 Women of St. John's
\$50 Miscellaneous Income
\$500 Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund
\$100 Benevolence Fund
\$20 Iris Boxes
\$1,900 Designated Miscellaneous

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.

Host Families Needed! ~ On April 11-12, Martin Luther College will host the WELS National Handbell Festival. St. John's has the privilege of hosting the bell choir from Luther Preparatory School and Wisconsin Lutheran High School. There are 12 students in the choir from LPS and we already have hosts for 6 of them. We need host families for six girls. There are 10 students from Wisco. There's a group of 3 boys, a group of 3 girls and 2 pairs of girls. The host family would need to pick up the students on Friday, April 10, in the evening when they arrive. On Saturday morning the host would take them to MLC. All three meals for Saturday are provided by MLC for the students. Hosts would then pick up the students Saturday evening. On Sunday, the host would provide breakfast and take the students to church and worship with them. The students would also need a sack lunch for Sunday. Finally, the host would drop the students off at MLC later Sunday morning. Please contact Laura Balza by March 20 if you are able to host. Thank you!

Easter for Kids 2026! ~ Join us on Saturday, March 28th, 2026, from 8:30 am - 11:00 am here at St. John's for our annual Easter for Kids! A bible study, crafts, music, and more will be offered for Preschool through 4th grade. Sign up your children using the following link or by scanning the QR code. We hope to see many of you there! If you have any questions, please contact Ella Hunter at: ehunter02@icloud.com or 507-766-3658.



Cards of Caring ~ Members of St. John's are invited to help make cards we give to congregation members — homebound, elderly, and others. We use donated, recycled, and create our own cards. Cards to be made include Valentine, Warm Winter Wishes, Easter, Confirmation, and Birthday. Help is needed with writing messages, stamping, and assembling cards. Please join us at 403 N. Minnesota St. between 9:00am and noon on Saturday, March 21st. Come and go as your schedule allows. Thank you for helping to serve our members. Contact: Lois Willems (507-676-1230).

Grand Piano on the Wish List ~ St. John's Worship Committee would like to replace the piano in the front of the church. The existing piano was not designed for a large space seating 350 people, but for a house or small music studio. The council has approved that a new 5-foot Yamaha grand piano (to be placed in the front of the sanctuary near the lectern) be added to the wish list. This piano would enrich our worship as it fills the church with sound. It's known for its stability of tuning and action and delivers a clear sound that would accompany the congregation and choirs well. The cost is approximately \$21,400 for the piano, delivery and installation, and all needed accessories. If you are interested in contributing to this worship enhancement, please note "Piano" on your offering envelope or electronic gift. To God be the glory!

Church Cleaning ~ An indoor/outdoor work day is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th from 9-11 a.m. It is a come and go event. Men, women and children are needed. For the outdoor work garden rakes, wheelbarrows, and shovels will be needed; please bring what you can. Many hands make light work! All cleaning supplies will be provided. Questions? Contact Sarah Logston (507-766-6455) or Mikal Schwark (507-304-3121).

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Ulm Food Shelf ~ St. John's is sponsoring a food drive for the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf during March. The New Ulm Food Shelf serves people in New Ulm, Lafayette, Hanska, Searles, Essig, and Courtland. We are collecting monetary donations and non-perishable food items (See the poster in the Narthex for ideas of what to donate). Place food items in the boxes in the narthex and monetary donations in a clearly marked envelope in the offering plate (if you write a check, please make it payable to the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf) by Sunday, March 29. For questions, contact Deb Beatty (507-276-2722) or Carla Melendy (507-217-9750).

WELS Group Tour to the Ark+ ~ Father's World Tours and the OWLS (WELS Seniors Group) invite W/ELS members of all ages to join us for an April 17-26 trip to the beautiful Bluegrass State of Kentucky. Our deluxe motorcoach originates in MN and continues through WI with free parking and pickups offered at WELS churches/schools in New Ulm, Mankato, Rochester, LaCrosse, and Madison. You can also opt to start and end in Brookfield/Milwaukee (April 18-25). Highlights include daily devotions, weekend worship, visits to the Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, Cumberland Falls, Old Friends (horse farm), Keeneland (horse racing), and much more. All meals are also included! Don't delay. Registration closes at midnight on the 15th of March (3/15). Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact Steve Balza at 507-217-1731 for more information or to register.

MVL Concert ~ The MVL Music Department invites you to its annual Spring Sacred Concert on Wednesday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the MVL Fine Arts Center. This year's program, themed What Wondrous Love, will celebrate the Lent and Easter seasons with performances by the A Cappella Choir, Freshmen Choir, MVL Chargaliers, and the Symphonic Band. A freewill offering will be collected.

MVL to Recognize Service in the Ministry ~ In conjunction with the Spring Sacred Concert on Wednesday, April 1, Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School will give thanks to God for Mrs. Rebecca Berg and her forty years of service in the ministry. In addition, MVL will also recognize with appreciation the ministry of Mr. Rollin Timm and Mr. Craig Morgan as they retire from their service at the close of this current school year. The concert will begin at 7:00 in the Fine Arts Center at MVL, and this recognition will take place during the concert. Following the concert, there will be a reception in the Activities Commons. All are invited to attend.

About the Cover ~ Some thought the man must have done something evil or that his parents must have sinned so badly against God that the man was cursed. But Jesus had to correct those who thought wrongly. The man was born blind so that Jesus could manifest God's grace and mercy through him. Jesus healed the man who was born blind to reveal to the world that Jesus is the promised Lord and our Savior with the power to deliver us from all the ill effects of sin.