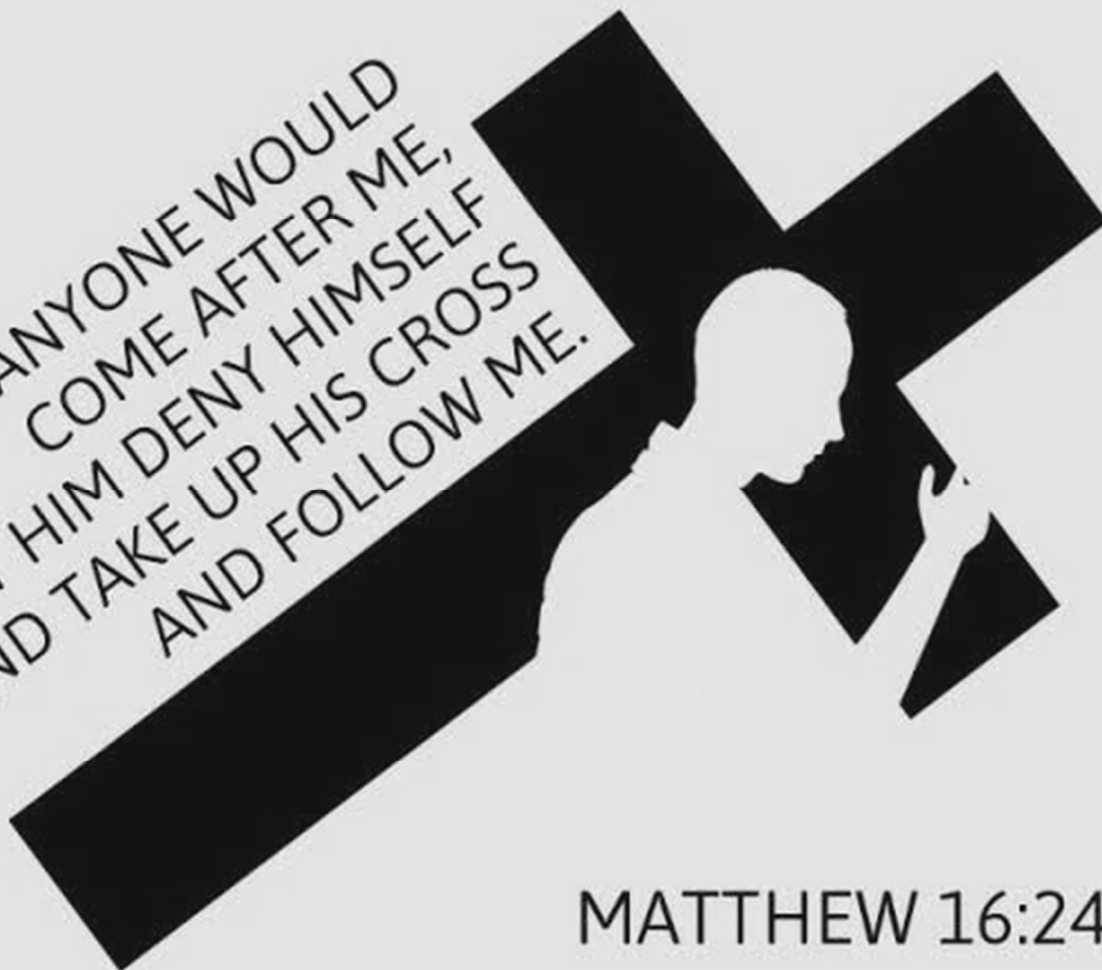


St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota

IF ANYONE WOULD
COME AFTER ME,
LET HIM DENY HIMSELF
AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS
AND FOLLOW ME.



MATTHEW 16:24

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 2/3, 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: Jesus, forgive us for the times that we've wanted to take the lead and put you behind us. We know that when we do, we sin against you and we act just like satan. Thank you for taking your rightful place in front of us. Thank you for taking up your cross to forgive us and keep us safe from satan, hell, and yes, ourselves. Now send us your Holy Spirit to help us to get behind you, work for your cause, and take up our crosses to follow you. Amen.

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting One* page 154

OPENING HYMN

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake

CW702

CONFESSION

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FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. ¹⁶When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty. ¹⁷I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.

¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says: “If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. ²⁰I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you,” declares the LORD. ²¹“I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalms 31E



In you, Lord, I have taken / refuge;

let me never be / put to shame.

Be my rock of / refuge,

a strong fortress to / save me.

Into your hands I commit my / spirit;

deliver me, Lord, my / faithful God. *Refrain*

My times are / in your hands;

save me in your un- / failing love.

How abundant are the / good things

that you have stored up for those who / fear you.

Be strong and / take heart,

all you who hope / in 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

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:18–25

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is

no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Whoever wants to be my disciple must de - ny them - selves

and take up their cross and fol - low me. *Refrain*

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21–26

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW694

SERMON

Matthew 16:21–26

Get Behind Jesus

I. Get Behind Jesus... Don't Try to Lead Him

II. Get Behind Jesus... It's the Only Safe Place to Be

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.

COMMUNION HYMN *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face* **CW660**

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

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† † †

PREACHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGAN

Pastor Rob Guenther

Pastor Jeff Bovee

Jon Roux

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
Mon		Labor Day: Church office closed
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6 pm	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Wed	10 am	Catechism
	1 pm	Stewardship Meeting
	6pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
	7 pm	Choir
Thu	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Fri	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Sat	8 am	Trustees Work Day
	5 pm	Summer Send-Off at St. Paul's School
	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 10	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	8 am	Sunday School Teacher Installation
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Heart in Focus
	3 pm	75th Anniversary Organ Recital
Sep 11	11:30 am	OWLS Meeting
Sep 13	10 am	Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Sep 14	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Sep 15	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Sep 16	8 am	Trustees Meeting
	9 am	Cards of Caring at 403 N. Minnesota St.
	6:30 pm	Worship
Sep 17	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	8 am	Grades 3-4 sing
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Heart in Focus

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

Why Did They Do That?! Voters' Respond to Proposal for Sanctuary Renovations

Have you seen the YouTube video of the gorilla walking through the basketball players passing the basketball? It is a fun way to make a salient point about St. John's sanctuary. Some of the needed sanctuary renovations are only noticed after people know for what they are looking. Currently, sections of the floor tile are cracked or missing, and the carpet has multiple rips, some six or more inches long. Meanwhile, many pews have worn finishes on the top rail and dated worn-out upholstery in the seats.

It is a logical choice to address these glaring needs for renovation. They are easy to see when looking for them. So why did the St. John's voters say, "Hold on! Wait a minute!"

The details of the sanctuary renovations have enjoyed broad support. The project was adopted by the 75th Anniversary Committee and endorsed by the voters at their April meeting. The renovations were communicated in numerous bulletin announcements, a July *Fortress* Article, and a multi-week narthex display. The Women of St. John's and members gave their support to renovate and thus beautify the sanctuary. The proposal included replacing the flooring in the chancel and its auxiliary rooms as well as the nave, refinishing the pews, replacing the pew cushions, providing more handicapped seating, designating a space for the handbells, and painting the walls.

The funding for the renovation has yet to be realized. The proposed cost for the renovations was \$133,000. The 75th Anniversary Committee set a goal to raise \$75,000 for the Semi sesquicentennial, 75th year. It seemed like an appropriate step toward the project completion without exhausting the roughly \$100,000 in the church's building fund. In July, there was \$12,000 received for the renovations. So, at the July voter's meeting, while looking at the current \$105,000 deficit for the 2023 operating fund, the voters were not ready to commit to further debt.

The voters defeated the motion to approve the sanctuary renovation contract, with 14 in favor and 16 opposed. The concern was given to our financial position and the timing regarding this project. The voters wanted the members to be aware of both the current financial position and the financial needs for the sanctuary renovations. However, the voters were unanimously resolute in their thanks to the Facilities Task Force for the work done on the contract for the sanctuary renovations. The voters' next step is to await the success of the anniversary thank offering fund before revisiting the contract for the sanctuary renovations.

Jesus continues to beautify and bless St. John's. He has given the congregation 75 years of gospel proclamation. He has blessed past efforts to build and expand its facilities. He has previously blessed the congregations giving to retire the mortgage. We pray He, through His people, continues to beautify St. John's members and its facilities with His life-giving Word.

Jon Schaefer,
Congregational President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 556.

Fruits of faith given:

\$17,824	Home Operations ~ \$19,371 <i>is our weekly need</i>		
\$1,001	MVL ~ \$1,278 <i>is our weekly need</i>	\$125	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$940	Missions ~ \$1,818 <i>is our weekly need</i>	\$100	Benevolence Fund
\$662	Building Fund	\$50	LWMS
\$4,734	75th Ann. Sanctuary Renovation	\$75	75th Anniversary Offering
\$30	Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund		

Volunteer Opportunities ~ The St. John's Board of Evangelism is looking for volunteers who are willing and able to help in a few roles in our Fellowship and Outreach efforts. If you are interested in any of the opportunities to serve or have questions about any of them, please reach out to Jesse Zahrt: evangelism@stjohnsnewulm.com

Fellowship Activities. This could be one or more people depending upon the volunteer(s) comfort level and schedule availability. The three areas we're looking for help with are:

Fellowship Coordinator: Leads the Fellowship Committee and coordinates our fellowship activities and events - which include the two other roles below.

Bible class coffee and treats: The main tasks are coordinating volunteers to make coffee each week, managing the sign-up for volunteers to bring treats, and placing an order once a month when St. John's hosts the treats.

Fellowship events: The main tasks for this are reserving locations, coordinating food as needed, and being the liaison with non-St. John's parties. These events include things like the annual church picnic, church campout, swimming event, and Flandrau fellowship.

Audio Visual Team. This team assists with the streaming St. John's worship on YouTube and handle about one service per month in the 8am Sunday service. The work involves arriving about fifteen minutes early and wrapping up briefly after the morning's final hymn. Some folks prefer to work with a partner, others choose to fly solo. The current staff is generous about swapping and substituting for one another when there are schedule conflicts.

Women of St. John's ~ Calling all avid readers! Our September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5th at 7 pm in the church basement. Please bring a book or two that you would recommend to others (or at least title and author). We will also have a brief meeting.

Properties Help Needed ~ The Board of Properties (Trustees) is requesting your help in September. They will be working on power washing the upper portions of the church, doing a touch up of the mulch around the church, adding the remainder of the kitchen baseboard, and reattaching the AED unit and signs in the Fellowship area. The work day is Saturday, September 9th at 8 am. If weather is bad or work incomplete, a second weekend is scheduled on September 16. Bring rakes and/or scoop shovels, wheelbarrow for mulch. Baseboard work may need knee pads. Other materials provided. Thanks for your help in beautifying the Lord's house.

75th Anniversary Organ Recital ~ On Sunday, September 10, the organists from St. John's will present an organ recital as part of our 75th anniversary celebrations. The recital will begin at 3 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Cards of Caring ~ As our fall schedules resume, it is time to think about making cards for our homebound and thinking-of-you members. We also include our three LWMS Befriend a Mission families. We will focus on making Thanksgiving and Christmas cards. All supplies are furnished. If you can't create cards, we have other simple tasks you can do. We welcome those from seventh grade and older, including MLC students. Our first date is Saturday, September 16, 2023. We meet from 9 am until noon. Come as your schedule allows. See you at 403 N. Minnesota St. (across from the Glockenspiel). This is an opportunity for fellowship and service to the Lord. Contact Lois Willems at 507-676-1230 with questions.

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

Summer Send-Off at St. Paul's School ~ Join us for Summer Send-off on Saturday, September 9th from 5 - 7 pm! John and Paul Ministries will say goodbye to summer with complimentary food, bounce houses, games, outdoor worship, and the best seats on the school grounds for the HermannFest fireworks! See you then and bring a friend! Many helpful hands and friendly faces are needed to run an outreach event! Please sign up at johnandpaulministries.com to volunteer! Questions? Contact Beth Scharf at scharfbm@mlc-wels.edu.

Women's Group at St. Paul's ~ MUMS is back! Moms Understanding Moms in view of the Savior (MUMS) is a group of Christian moms from St. Paul's and St. John's churches and St. Paul's school that meet on Tuesdays, beginning Sep. 12, 9 am in the basement at St. Paul's church, to encourage one another in God's Word and prayer. We are excited to get back together. Please join our Facebook group called MUMs for more details and updates! If you have questions please contact Cori Waldschmidt at (989) 245-9256.

MLC Homecoming ~ On Saturday, September 30, the MLC Alumni Association invites you to campus for Homecoming. The events begin with the 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/2023MLCFunRun. After the Fun Run/Walk, stay to enjoy the free Family Fun Zone that includes Bumper Soccer, QB Challenge, caricatures, inflatables, basketball challenge and more! Later that day you'll be able to catch several sporting events and alumni will have an evening reception at Kegel Klub. Check out www.mlc-wels.edu/events/homecoming for the full slate of events and come see what is new at your college of ministry!

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 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 Scriver
Teacher Emily Stoering
St. John's Church Office

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About the Cover ~ Peter thought he knew better than Jesus. He didn't, obviously. Peter's way would have led to his damnation -- and ours! Thank God that Jesus didn't give up his cross to avoid the pain it would bring! He took up his cross and endured hell there for our sake to rescue us from our sin! Now we are willing, eager even, to pick up our crosses to follow Jesus as he leads the way in our lives.