



The battle is the
LORD'S

I Samuel 17:47

First Sunday in Lent
March 8 / 9, 2025

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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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.

was slung on his back. ⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

⁸ Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." ¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ¹¹ On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

³² David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

³³ Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD

will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *The Shadow of the Almighty* Psalm 91

SECOND LESSON Hebrews 4:14–16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 John 3:8



Refrain



Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Tone



Refrain

The reason the Son of God ap - peared was to destroy the dev - il's work.

GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an
opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *If God Himself Be for Me* CW 819

SERMON 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-40, 45-49

He Came in the Name of the LORD Almighty

Stand

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH pg. 164

OFFERING

HYMN *Onward, Christian Soldiers* CW 869

PRAYER AND BLESSING pg. 171

CLOSING HYMN *Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go* CW 739

PREACHER	Pastor Jeff Bovee
PRESIDING MINISTER	Pastor Rob Guenther
ORGAN	Jacob Behnken
PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN	Heidi Meyer
PIANO	Christine Baganz

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Stewardship of Talent
Monday	1 pm	Stewardship Meeting
	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Tuesday	6 pm	Sunday School Meeting
Wednesday	11 am	Midweek Lenten Service
	4, 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Service
	5 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	No Bible Information Class
	7:15 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Friday	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Saturday	8 am	Properties Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Mar. 16	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Stewardship of Treasure w/ Mike Hatzung
Tuesday, Mar. 18	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 19	11 am	Lenten Service
	3:30 pm	Homeschool & Public School Catechism
	4, 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Service
	5 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Bible Information Class
	7:15 pm	No Choir
Thursday, Mar. 20	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Friday, Mar. 21	9:30 am	No Women's Bible Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 577 with 404 receiving the Lord's Supper.

Fruits of Faith:

\$20,877 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$160,181 / YTD: \$175,699
\$2,926 WELS Missions ~ RTD: \$18,163 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)
\$2,306 MVL ~ RTD: \$10,908 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)
\$675 Building Fund
\$185 K-12 Education Assistance
\$50 LWMS
\$132 Food and Fellowship
\$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$49 Miscellaneous Income
\$50 Endowment Fund
\$50 Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund
\$50 MLC Ladies Auxiliary
\$100 Benevolence Fund
\$50 Lutheran Charities
\$50 Christian Family Solutions
\$100 Technology Equipment
\$100 Altar and Flowers

Cards of Caring ~ Members of St. John's are invited to help make the cards our congregation sends to homebound members and others during the year. We use donated, recycled, and created cards. There are many ways you can help such as writing, using stamps and putting the cards together. We produce cards for birthdays, get-well, anniversaries, sympathy, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines, Easter, Confirmation, and Thinking of your occasions. Please join us at 403 N. Minnesota St. between 9 am to noon on Saturday March 15, 2025. About 80 Cards are needed for each event. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our members. For further information contact Lois Willems at (507) – 676 – 1230

Food Shelf ~ Save the date St. John's will again sponsor a food drive for the New Ulm Area Food Shelf March 15-31. Watch your future bulletins for more details.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) will be gathering on Monday, March 10 for a noon Subway meal at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm. The costs will be covered with Thrivent Action Team moneys. Fellowship begins at 11:30 AM. After the meal and a devotion, Mr. Mike Thom will conduct a Forum on OWLS entitled "Adapting to the Next Generation." If you have not signed up and plan to attend, contact Myron Fluegge at flueggemtj@hotmail.com or phone 507-359-2424 by Wednesday noon, March 5, 2025, for a meal count. Hope you can make it.

LWMS Rally ~ All are invited to attend the LWMS rally on April 5 at Friedens Lutheran Church in New Prague, MN. The rally begins with a coffee fellowship at 8:00AM, and the speaker of the day is Pastor Larry Schlomer- World Mission board Chairman. Please RSVP to Carrie Schaefer carriehieb@yahoo.com.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Interested in traveling with other members of our WELS faith family where daily devotion and Christian fellowship are integral parts of the itinerary? The OWLS (WELS Seniors group) is partnering with *Father's World Tours* to offer two upcoming trips, and WELS members of all ages are eligible to come along. Nature enthusiasts, spend some time with MLC Professor Emeritus Jim Pope in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. The May 10-16 trip offers convenient starting points (MSP, New Ulm, or Sioux Falls) and affordable pre/post-tour (May 9 or 16) hotel opportunities. History lovers, join MLC professors Pete Baganz, Paul Koelpin, and Keith Wessel for a bucket list June 8-25 trip to London, Normandy, and Paris. Group flights are available from Chicago or Minneapolis. Registration closes March 14. Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact Steve Balza (steve@fathersworldtours.com or 507-217-1731) for full details.

St. Paul's Musical Pre-show Treat ~ Join us for a Sweet Prelude benefitting the St Paul's Raider Musical! Enjoy a delicious pre-show treat, punch and live piano music, all supporting our rising stars! Adults: Cheesecake and punch \$5. Children (10 and under): Cupcake and punch \$3. Saturday, March 15th Dessert and Social Hour: Serving between 6:00 and 6:45 PM Raider Musical: 7:00 PM

MVL Auction ~ Y-O-U are invited to this year's Jeans and Dreams Booster Club Auction! Funds raised benefit fine arts, athletics, and academic teams at MVL! The need is great again this year so put on your jeans and join us April 5th at the Historic Turner Hall in New Ulm! Doors open at 5:30pm! FREE EVENT! Anyone who wants to donate an item (new & unopened), themed-basket, experience, baked goods, weekend vacation, fishing trip, etc. for our live auction, silent auction, or buy-it-now-table? Contact one of the following! Michelle Grubbs: momwde@gmail.com Karly Kock: karlybo6@gmail.com Jess Ziemer: 507-779-4090

Hard deadline for donations: 3pm on Friday, March 28th! Thank you for your continued support of MVL! Hope to see you all on April 5th with your jeans on!"

Raider Choir Musical ~ St. Paul's Lutheran School Raider Choir invites you to come to their performance of the musical, "The Snow White Musicapalooza!" on March 14 & 15 at 7:00PM. The audience becomes the live studio audience on a talk show, *Real Talk with Fairytale Legends*, where the seven dwarves tell the story of Snow White as the Fairytale Players bring it to life. As each new dwarf takes a turn telling or singing different parts of Snow White's famous story in his or her own unique voice, the players' reenactment shifts to match the style and personality of that particular dwarf. At any given moment, the story can be anything — romance, suspense, epic poetry, cooking show, stand-up routine, or blockbuster action movie! The musical will be performed in the St. Paul's School gym. Come early! Seats fill quickly.

About the Cover ~ This portrayal of David with the severed head of the Philistine warrior Goliath was painted by Italian artist Michelangelo Caravaggio in 1607. Although somewhat grotesque, the interesting thing about the image is that the face of Goliath is actually a portrait of Caravaggio himself. He also portrayed himself as Judas Iscariot in painting of the apostle's betrayal of Jesus. Caravaggio did this as a reminder that he, along with all of us, are by nature villains and the enemies of God. But God delivered us, even from ourselves. God destroyed Satan, sin, and death by sending Jesus to conquer the enemies of our souls. We have confidence therefore, just as David did when he was about to step out onto the battlefield against Goliath and declared, "The battle is the LORD'S."