

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

**BUT JUST AS WE HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY GOD
TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL, SO WE SPEAK,
NOT TO PLEASE MAN, BUT TO PLEASE GOD**

WHO TESTS OUR HEARTS

1 THESSALONIANS 2:4



Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 4/5, 2023

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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, thank you for lovingly speaking the truth to us, even the tough truths we need to hear, as a mother or father lovingly confronts her or his child. Forgive us for the times we've been more concerned about what other people think of us than we have been about what you think of us. Thank you for sending your Son to live and die for us so that we might become your sons and daughters. Now help us to lovingly speak your truths to others, no matter what they think, seeking to please you more than people. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

OPENING HYMN *Our Father, by Whose Name* **CW761**

CONFESSION p. 154

FIRST LESSON **Micah 3:5–12**

⁵This is what the LORD says: “As for the prophets who lead my people astray, they proclaim ‘peace’ if they have something to eat, but prepare to wage war against anyone who refuses to feed them. ⁶Therefore night will come over you, without visions, and darkness, without divination. The sun will set for the prophets, and the day will go dark for them. ⁷The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced. They will all cover their faces because there is no answer from God.”

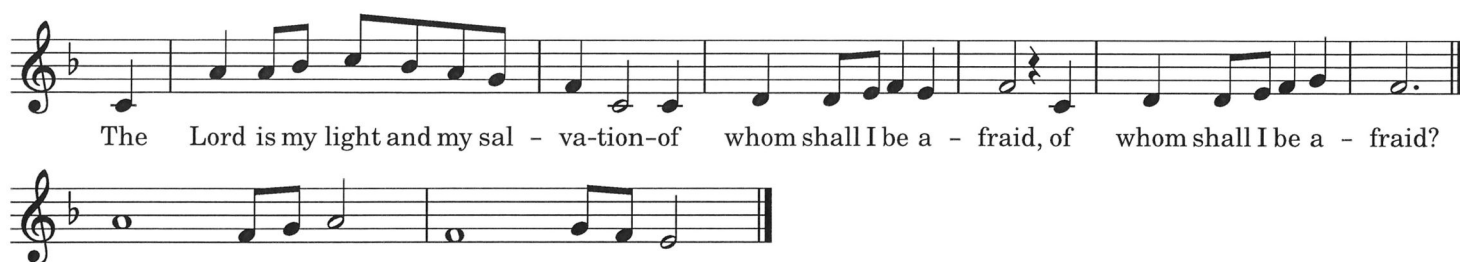
⁸But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin. ⁹Hear this, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right; ¹⁰who build Zion with bloodshed, and Jerusalem with wickedness. ¹¹Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. Yet they look for the LORD’s support and say, “Is not the LORD among us? No disaster will come upon us.” ¹²Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 27C



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

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 2:1–13

¹You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ²We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. ³For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. ⁷Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the

gospel of God to you. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

¹³And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Those who exalt themselves will be hum - bled,

and those who humble themselves will be ex - alt - ed.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Matthew 23:1–12

¹Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ²“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ³So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. ⁴They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

⁵“Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; ⁶they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; ⁷they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others.

⁸“But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY *O Lord, Take Pity Once You've Seen* CW865

SERMON 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

"I Don't Care What You Think, Son."

NICENE CREED p. 162

OFFERING / COMMUNION

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

DISTRIBUTION *Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord* CW661

HYMNS *O Lord, We Praise You* CW673

PRAYERS (*Contemporary*) and BLESSING p. 170

† † †

PREACHER	Pastor Rob Guenther
PRESIDING MINISTER	Pastor Jeff Bovee
ORGAN	Becky Berg

Saints Triumphant

Among the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, we give thanks to God for those who have gone from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant during the past church year:

Saints in Glory

Rita Walters
Marlene Rolloff
Leanne Howard

They Entered Glory on:

2/16/2023
3/2/2023
7/29/2023

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
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Book of Job
	2 pm	MLC Fall Musical <i>Hello, Dolly!</i>
Mon	5:30 pm	Education Meeting
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Tue	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Wed	10 am	Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Thu	10:30 am	Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	7 pm	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	Properties Meeting
	9 am	Cards of Caring at 403 N. Minnesota St.
	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 12	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Book of Job
Niv 13	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
Nov 14	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6 pm	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
Nov 15	10 am	Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Nov 16	10:30 am	Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	7 pm	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Nov 17	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Nov 18	6:30 pm	Worship
Nov 19	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	8 am	Gr. K-4 sing
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Book of Job
Nov 21	3 pm	MLC Wind Symphony Concert
	6 pm	Joint Council Meeting at St. Paul's Church
	7 pm	Council Meeting

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 572.

Fruits of faith given:

\$13,967	Home Operations ~ \$30,392 is our weekly need		
\$942	MVL ~ \$1,278 is our weekly need	\$100	K-12 Education Assistance
\$1,092	Missions ~ \$1,818 is our weekly need	\$100	Technology Equipment
\$607	Building Fund	\$25	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$40	75th Ann. Sanctuary Renovation	\$14	Food & Fellowship

Women of St. John's ~ Our November meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7th at 7 pm in the church basement. Brad Price will be giving a presentation on the Lutheran Military Support Group. Following his presentation, we will have a brief business meeting including elections for our vice-president and treasurer. Please contact Sarah Logston at logstonsarah@gmail.com if you are interested in serving in one of these roles.

Sanctuary Screens ~ It was recommended to the voters and passed at the July 25th Voter's meeting to purchase and install screens on the two sides of the sanctuary. Funds had already been raised for this technology during the past several years. The Tech Committee and other volunteers will coordinate the installation of the equipment as soon as feasible. Members will soon see two 85" screens, one on each side in front of the chancel area. Plans are that volunteers can easily advance slides during worship. If you would be interested in advancing slides for services, please contact Staff Minister, Jim Dretske at sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com or fill out an interest survey online at <https://bit.ly/SJScreenSurvey>.

Volunteers Needed ~ St. John's supports the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf by providing volunteers to assist clients on the third Monday of each month from 11:45-3 pm. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering in 2024, please indicate your availability on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call Carla Melendy (507-217-9750) or Deb Beatty (507-276-2722).

Cards of Caring ~ 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. We will meet on Saturday, November 11th 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

MLC Fall Musical ~ MLC presents *Hello, Dolly!* this Sunday, November 5 at 2 pm. This musical adaptation of Thornton Wilder's hit play *The Matchmaker* bursts with humor, romance, energetic dance, and some of the greatest songs in musical theatre history. The romantic and comic exploits of Dolly Gallagher-Levi, turn-of-the-century matchmaker and "woman who arranges things," are certain to thrill and entertain you. Be sure to join us for this delightful musical comedy! Tickets are on sale now. Visit mlc-wels.edu/forum to purchase your reserved seating tickets ahead of time (\$10 for adults, \$8 for students/seniors); prices go up at the door, and seating selection will be limited.

MVL Wreath Sales ~ MVL will again be selling wreaths, swags, live garland, and spruce pots to help bring the sights and scents of Christmas to your home or business! Look for friendly MVL students at your church to help you place your order. You may also go to the MVL website and place your order online. Order deadline is Sunday, November 12, and we hope to deliver most products to your church by Thanksgiving. Thank you for your support! May God bless your upcoming celebrations!

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting on Monday, November 13 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm. Fellowship begins at 11:30 am with a noon potluck meal. Please bring a dish to pass. Drinks and table wear will be provided. A devotion will be held at 12:45 pm, with a presentation to follow by Brad Price about our Lutheran Military Support Group. Hope you can make it.

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.

About the Cover ~ Paul was willing to speak the truth to his members, even when they didn't want to hear it. He wasn't concerned about pleasing people. He knew that God had entrusted him with this high and noble task of sharing the truth with others. And he wanted to please his Savior who rescued him from eternal death and made him a son of God. May God grant each of us a similar attitude that is more eager to please God than to please people.