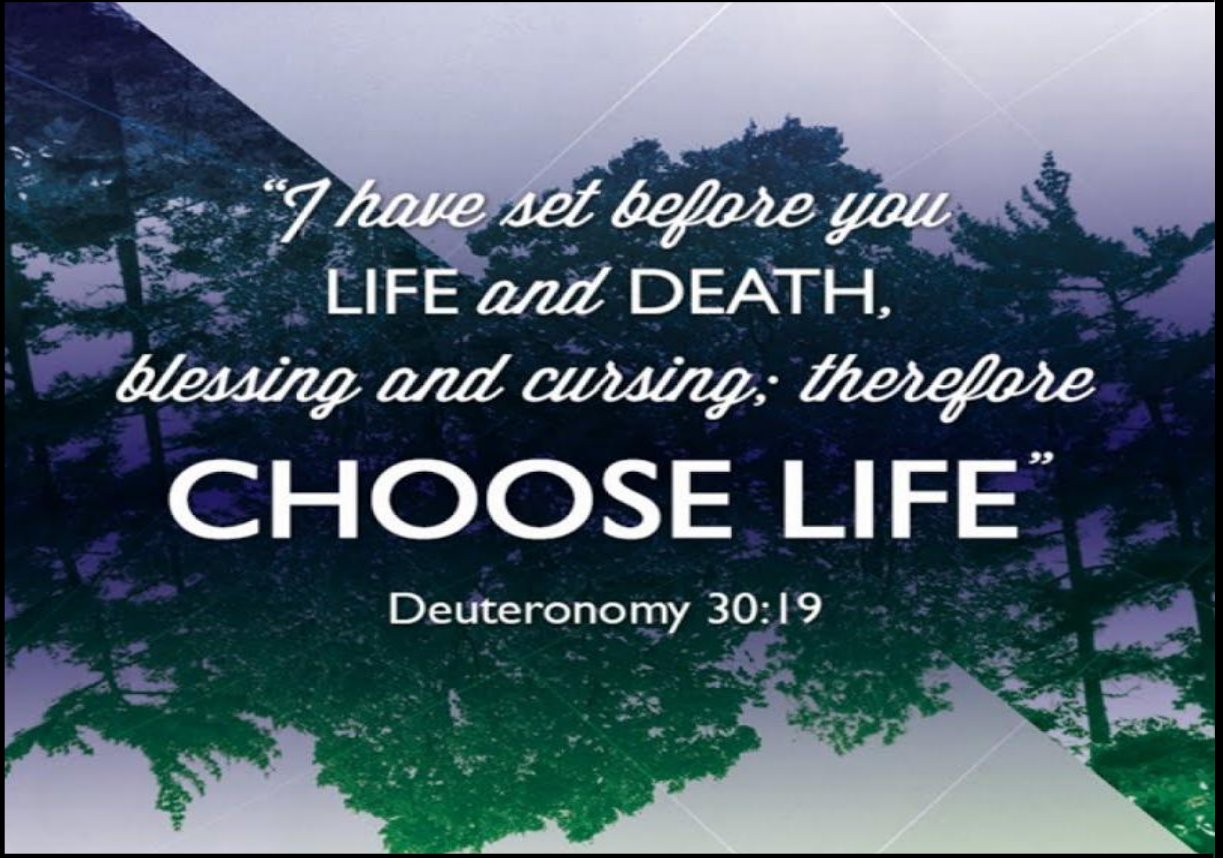


St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



*"I have set before you
LIFE and DEATH,
blessing and cursing; therefore
CHOOSE LIFE"*

Deuteronomy 30:19

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 6/7, 2025

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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6/7, 2025

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, we know that so often we choose what is worthless instead of what is godly. Thank you that chose to send your Son to rescue us. Now help us to make better choices in thanks to you. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE *Service Setting 3* pg. 188

OPENING HYMN *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* CW 705
Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS pg. 188

LORD HAVE MERCY pg. 190

GLORY TO GOD pg. 191

PRAYER OF THE DAY pg. 193

Be seated

FIRST LESSON Deuteronomy 30:15–20

¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you

this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Blessed Are They

Psalm 1

SECOND LESSON

Philemon 1,7–21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—

⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—
¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹² I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. ¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but

even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.

¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:68



Refrain



Tone



²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:
²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

³⁴ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?
³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW 694

SERMON

The Choice Between Life or Death

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER INSTALLATION 8am

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

pg. 198

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT

pg. 199

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CW 718

Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

CW 730

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSING

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Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGAN

Adrian Smith

Welcome, Visitors! Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



Givelify

Scan the QR code to use the Givelify app and donate your offering.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
	3 pm	Cancer Support Group
Monday	6 pm	Board of Evangelism
Wednesday	11:30 am	Stewardship Meeting
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Saturday, Sep 13	6:30 pm	Worship
Monday, Sep 15	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
	7:30 pm	Board of Youth and Ed
Tuesday, Sep 16	7 pm	Council Meeting
Thursday, Sep 18	10 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 488.

Fruits of Faith:

\$11,275 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$622,927/ YTD: \$591,226
\$984 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$69,391 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)
\$872 MVL ~ YTD: \$43,366 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)
\$230 Building Fund
\$155 K-12 Education Assistance
\$50 St. Paul's School
\$70 LWMS
\$20 MLC Ladies Auxiliary
\$100 Benevolence Fund
\$75 Wish List
\$100 Technology Equipment

Cancer Support Group ~ The cancer support group will meet on Sunday, September 7 at 3:00 PM. This time our meeting will be at St. Paul's Church. Please enter through the side entrance attached to the parking lot on the corner of State and Third. This group supports anyone diagnosed with any type of cancer, whether recently or longer ago, as well as adult family members and friends who support someone with cancer. We meet to be encouraged with God's Word and by fellowship with each other. We also will continue to discuss plans for the Be Still project to extend spiritual comfort and support to others diagnosed with cancer. An optional walking tour in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery will begin at 1:30 PM, weather permitting, for those who wish to do so. We will hear stories about Lutherans in New Ulm history and see unique grave markers. Meet at the original cemetery gate posts along the road between the Lutheran cemetery and the Catholic cemetery. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to walk on uneven ground and small inclines.

St. John's Job Opening ~ Due to an upcoming retirement, St. John's is seeking applicants to fill the position of bookkeeper. This is a part-time position (10-15 hrs/week) that will begin on January 5, 2026. We are looking for a person who has previous experience in accounting or bookkeeping. If you know of someone who may be interested, please pick up a job description from the church office.

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 used donated, recycled, and created cards. You can help by making cards, writing messages, using stamps and seals to assemble the cards. We make cards for birthdays, anniversaries, get-well, sympathy, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines, Easter and Confirmation. Please join us at 403 N. Minnesota St. between 9:00 a.m. and noon on Saturdays: September 20, October 18, and November 15, 2025. Come and go as your schedule allows. About 80 cards are needed for each occasion. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our members. For further information contact Lois Willems at 507-676-1230.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

MLC Job Opening ~ Martin Luther College is accepting applications for a full-time Director of Marketing & Communications and a part-time Men's Assistant Basketball Coach. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

More than the Score ~ Join us for the first *More Than the Score* lecture at Martin Luther College on Saturday, September 13, at 10:30 am in the MLC Cafeteria. MLC's Dean Ben Clemons will present "Bandwidth: Managing Mental Capacity in a Distracted World." Discover how time constraints, stress, and life challenges affect our ability to focus—and learn practical ways to regain clarity. This free event, held before the MLC home football game, is open to all. For details, visit mlc-wels.edu/more-than-the-score.

Christians Forward Southeast Asia (CFSA) ~ Please keep this Christ centered humanitarian relief organization in your prayers. On Saturday, September 6th they will have an annual fundraiser hike around the rim of the Grand Canyon. There are information sheets and envelopes on the table by the window in the new narthex if you are interested in donating toward this or the upcoming medical clinic in Thailand in April 2026. Additional information and opportunities can also be found on their website: www.christiansforward.org.

Missionary Presentation ~ Pastor Abram Degner will be giving a presentation about the mission work being done in Latin America during our Bible Class hour on Sunday, October 5th. Missionary Degner currently resides and serves in South America.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) ~ Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4th! St John's in Redwood Falls, MN is hosting the MN Valley Circuit's Fall Rally. Our speaker will be Pastor Abram Degner about the mission work being done in Latin America and beyond through Academia Cristo. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Interested in traveling with members of your faith family? The OWLS (WELS Seniors) is partnering with Father's World Tours to offer several upcoming tours that incorporate daily devotion and connections with local WELS ministries. California Cruisin' (12/31-1/13) is open for booking through Sept 30 and more 2026 tours will be opening soon. Trips are open to W/ELS members of all ages. Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact us (steve@fathersworldtours.com or 507-217-1731) to learn more.

Attention Military Service Members and Spouses! ~ Are you looking to connect with fellow Christian Warriors who have served in the military and who share your faith? Grab your spouse or “battle buddy” and join us for Growing Together: Shoulder to Shoulder, our Spiritual Retreat held at Camp Shiloh, Texas, October 16-19. Topics at this year’s retreat include sharing your faith with other service members, suicide prevention, resilience as a spouse, and others. Join other Christian Warriors from around the country for four encouraging days together. Information about speakers, sessions, schedule, and registration details can be found on our website. Registration closes September 20, 2025. Visit www.lutheranmilitary.org today!



OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) cordially invites all area congregational members and friends of all ages to spend "An Evening with Martin Luther" (A One Man Play). The presentation will take place in the sanctuary of St. John's Lutheran Church, 627 S. Washington St. New Ulm at 7:00 PM on Monday evening, September 8, by Dr. Dwight Johnson. There is no admission. Instead, a free will offering to support the ministry of the Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is encouraged. No reservations needed - just come!

About the Cover ~ Our choices matter every day. What I choose to eat today and tomorrow and the next day... matters. It makes the difference between a heart attack at 50 and living to see my potential grandkids. What I spend my money on today and tomorrow and the next day... matters. Or how I invest it... makes the difference between a comfortable retirement or me eating ramen every day in my 90's ...if I live that long. God lays a choice before us that matters far more than any of that... He gives us a choice of life and death. And not just in a hospital room or on a high wire. But for eternity... Thank God we have a Savior who chose to rescue us from our poor choices by his death on a cross. Now let's choose to live for him in thanks.