



**St. John's Lutheran Church
New Ulm, MN**

July, 2024 *Fortress*

Sing a New Song to the Lord

Psalm 96:1-3 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

In May we celebrated the festival of Pentecost, which always takes place exactly fifty days after Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection. It is considered the last Sunday of the “festival half” of the church year, which includes Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost.

The following Sunday after Pentecost is Holy Trinity Sunday, which begins the non-festival half of the Church Year. It is called the non-festival half because it does not include the major celebrations of the Church Year which we refer to as the “high festivals.” It focuses more on the ministry of Jesus Christ and includes lessons from his teachings, parables, and miracles among the people of this earth during his state of humiliation.

But even during the non-festival half of the church year we retain the Ordinary. The Ordinary in the worship service are the parts of the service that are found in basically every service, and do not change or change very little. Examples are the *Kyrie* (Lord, have Mercy), *Gloria* (Glory be to God on High), *Credo* (Creeds), *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy), and *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God).

The Worship Committee of the Wisconsin Evangelical Luther Synod writes:

The non-festival half of the Christian church year is often called *Ordinary Time*, and the repeating elements of the liturgy are called *The Ordinary*, but there is nothing ordinary about the regular weekly worship of God's gathered people. Even on non-festival days, in Word and Sacrament we hear and proclaim a message that raises the dead: Jesus, our Savior lives!

Well said... Because the truth of the matter is that anytime we join in worshipping the living God there is nothing ordinary about it. It is always extraordinary. In every worship service we reminded that Jesus Christ came into this world to live a perfect life in our place, because we couldn't do it. In every worship service we are reminded that he died in our place to pay the debt for all our sins,

because we did not have anything valuable enough to give to God in exchange for our salvation. In every worship service we are reminded that Jesus Christ rose from death to prove our sins are forgiven, that we have peace with God, and that eternal life in heaven is ours through faith in him, since his resurrection proves God accepted his perfect sacrifice on behalf of the entire fallen human race.

For this reason, every time we gather to worship we fulfill the words of the Psalmist who wrote: **Psalm 96:1-3 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

The new song refers to the gospel message. It is new because it is totally different from any other message. It teaches we are saved by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ, not by our own good efforts or intentions. It refreshes the heart of the worshiper and renews the spirit within us. It emboldens us and gives us the zeal to want to share the saving message of salvation with others.

This is the non-festival half of the church year, but not because we have stopped celebrating. The celebration continues as we sing a new song to the Lord.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee

July Sermon Texts

July 7	Revelation 5:6-14	Look at the Savior Now!
July 14	Amos 7:10-16	Hear the Word of the Lord
July 21	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Your Perfect King Cares for You
July 28	Exodus 16:1-15	God Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

Bible Class meets in the Church Basement

The class can also be found online at bit.ly/SJBibleClass

Sundays at 11 am	Stories Not Told in Sunday School	Pastor Rob Guenther
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Church Library

Summer is here. We are hoping you can enjoy some outside activities in the rain showers. During the rain you can read.

Anthony Russo has a sense of humor. He wrote 60 devotions in his book, “Curiosities and Uncommon Sense from the Bible.” He uses a donkey picture on many pages because the donkey in Numbers 22 knew more than his master Balaam. God allowed the donkey to talk to explain things to Balaam. Mr. Russo sees the humor of many other situations that teach us things.

Gwen Ford Faulkenberry shows us how “Love Finds You in Romeo, Colorado.” The couple, a literature professor and a doctor, meet when the woman prof takes her son to the doctor after an asthma attack. After a few misunderstandings are cleared, the way is clear for a romance. Romeo Colorado exists on the Colorado/ New Mexico border.

These 2 books as well as all the other books in the church library are available whenever the church is open. The newest books are on the wheeled bookshelf. There are free bookmarks in the Returns basket.

Have a good summer.

LeiLani Rahn, church librarian

Summer Fellowship in the Park

The Friday morning women’s Bible study group invites all parents and their children to join them during the summer months for Christian fellowship in the park. We meet at 9 am at the listed park for free play. Please feel free to stay as little or as long as you’d like. Feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Erika Grundmeier at (989) 529-8729.

(We’ll take 4th of July Week Off)

- Jul 12 Nehl’s Park: 1100 Summit Ave.
- 19 South Park: 1800 S. State St.
- 26 German Park: 200 N. German St.

- Aug 2 Hermann Heights Park: 14 Monument St.
- 9 North Park: 1801 N State St.
(SplashPad available starting later in morning)
- 16 Harman Park: 101 N. Garden St.
- 23 Highland Park: 1627 5th North St.



MN District of WELS Convention

On June 18-19, 2024, 222 pastors, teachers, staff ministers and lay delegates convened for the 53rd Minnesota District Convention of the WELS. Martin Luther College's administration, staff, and faculty graciously hosted the convention. The theme for the convention was Faithful to Our Calling.

The delegates elected our presidium for the next two years: Rev. Dennis Klatt, President from New Hope, MN, Rev. Nathanael Scharf, 1st Vice-president from New Ulm, MN, Rev. Matthew Pfeifer, 2nd Vice-president from Des Moines, IA, and Rev. Eugene DeVries, Secretary from Hutchinson, MN.

The delegates were divided into 17 committees. Ten of the committees served to facilitate the functioning of the convention. Six committees reacted to the synodical report, 2024 Report to the Twelve Districts. The synodical report contained updates from 30 different identities: conferences, councils, committees, boards, financial groups, and congregational services. The majority of the resolutions from these six committees affirmed and encouraged the efforts of these groups and appealed for prayers and blessings on their work.

Two resolutions were noteworthy. The Special Matters Committee resolution opposed a recommendation to change the synodical conventions from the current biennial meetings to triennial meetings. The delegates voted to keep the biennial meeting format.

The Ministry Support Committee report contained the announcement of the plans for the 175th Anniversary of the WELS. A special logo, a service at the convention, and celebratory congregational services suggestions will focus on the theme "Christ through us." The WELS 175th Anniversary Committee will produce a pictorial history, a history book, articles and videos to rehearse the special blessing God has bestowed on our Wisconsin Synod.

The Synodical Report can also be called the report on the "State of the Synod." It is really a perception of how God is blessing us and giving directives for "teaching all nations" of Jesus' redemptive work. The Church and our Wisconsin Synod are feeling the influences of our times.

The elevation of self-interests, bold expressions of evil in our culture, demographic changes, and lack of reverence for God's word, life, and His providence have stagnated growth for our synod. The theme of the convention, Faithful to Our Calling, is a rally call to seek more workers for kingdom work along with financial and familial support. May all of us be empowered by Jesus to participate in our own unique way to keep us faithful in our desire to further the kingdom.

Roger Klockziem
Lay representative for St. John's

Newly elected presidium for the MN District:

Pastor Eugene DeVries, Pastor Matthew Pfeifer, Pastor Nathan Scharf, Pastor Dennis Klatt



Board of Youth and Education

The Blessing of Sunday School and the Need for Teachers

St. John's, New Ulm is blessed with Christian education that is offered from pre-school through college. We encourage parents to take advantage of all the opportunities that are available to them so that they can train their children in the Word of God.



When I was growing up, I did not attend a Lutheran Elementary School. However, the congregation I attended had a very strong Sunday School program. We learned Bible verses and Luther's Small Catechism. It was a great blessing to me and many others.

Sunday School is perhaps overlooked at times since we do have Christian day school. But Sunday School is still important for a number of reasons. First of all, it gives students yet one more opportunity to hear the Word of God. Second, it brings students together on a regular basis in a setting that is not school. Third, it becomes part of the routine that is instilled in students to make Sunday a time set apart for worshiping God, as we learn in the Third Commandment, and as we learn in Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

To that end, we encourage you as parents to send your children to Sunday School, even if they are enrolled at St. Paul's School. If they are enrolled at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School or Martin Luther College, you might encourage them to become Sunday School teachers or helpers.

An Appeal for More Sunday School Teachers

We are blessed to have Martin Luther College in our backyard, and that quite literally. The students from MLC have been a great asset to our congregation in many ways, and Sunday School is no exception. In fact, this past year ALL our Sunday School teachers are or were MLC students. They were great!

However, it also poses a special problem for St. John's. Due to the fact that MLC has now begun something called a "J Term" these students are not available during almost the entire month of January. There are also other times, such as spring break, when they may also not be available.

As a result, we are looking for more Sunday School teachers from within the congregation. We have always endeavored to have at least two teachers for each grade. That way, teachers can tag-team and not have to teach every Sunday. And even though we do not want to discourage MLC students from teaching for us, ideally it works best that if one of the teachers happens to be an MLC student, we would like to have the other person to be a member of the congregation so that they can cover those Sundays when the MLC student is not able to be there.

St. John's members, please consider being Sunday School teachers or to be placed on a substitute list, because there are times we need subs as well. Your service to the congregation and to God's Kingdom at large would be deeply appreciated.

If you are interested, contact Pastor Bovee or Prof. Joel Thomford.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee, 507-217-6364, revbovee@gmail.com
Prof. Joel Thomford, 507-217-3714, jwthomford@gmail.com

Staff Minister

Sanctuary Renovation Projects – By the time you read this, the Sanctuary Renovation including new flooring and pew upholstery should be complete. The time-line changed a few times as the date approached, but when I wrote this, the project was set to begin and completion was expected yet in June. Thanks to all of the Facilities Task Force, especially, Ron Zahrt who was instrumental in communicating with those whom we contracted to complete the project. Praise the Lord!

The “all church cleaning” date will be set once the sanctuary is complete– a date most likely in July. Watch the bulletins for details. We pray for a large crowd to clean the church as there will be a fair amount of construction dust throughout the church.

Stewardship Time & Talents ~ Due to some unforeseen circumstances, the distribution of the Stewardship Board’s Time & Talent booklet won’t take place until the second week of July. The Stewardship Board expresses encouragement for every member to fill out a T&T survey, either paper or online, to update or indicate areas of ministry that interest you to support the work of our congregation. There are currently 250 members serving roughly 600 positions of active ministry in our congregation. There is currently a desire to fill about 800 available positions of ministry here at St. John’s – there are so many opportunities to be active. The interest “survey” does not sign you up for activities, but gives me and others who serve in those areas a chance to reach out to interested members when needed to help fill roles of ministry that are important to St. John’s congregation. Perhaps you are interested in choir, handbells, advancing slides, or substitute teaching in Sunday School. There are many opportunities! Read through the booklet, see what opportunities the Holy Spirit opens up for you and fill out the survey. “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose” (Philippians 2:13) Perhaps you are no longer able to serve in ways you had indicated in the past. It takes many people to complete the ministry done each year at St. John’s! <https://bit.ly/2024TandTBooklet> (Not created yet - but use this address when creating) and <bit.ly/SJTandTSurvey> Thanks for your participation.

Communion Questions - In 2022, the Maundy Thursday service focused on the Lord Supper and the liturgy was made up of Pastor Guenther reading the questions that are found on pgs. 295-296 in CW2021 with the congregation responding with the answers. I condensed the service to a video that included only the questions and answers and thought the six minute video would serve members to help them prepare for taking communion. You can take the link: <http://bit.ly/CommunionQuestions> or scan the QR Code a right to have it play on your phone:



Visiting the Homebound - If you are not on our list to be visited but would like to be included, please call or text me at **507-217-7604** or email me to get on the list.

St. John’s Tech Services - Use the following links or internet address shortcuts to reach our online resources.

- 1) <https://stjohnsnewulm.com> - Our church’s Website - Check it out!
- 2) <bit.ly/SJNUPodcast> to listen again to the pastor’s sermon message on your phone.
- 3) <bit.ly/SJyoutube> - St. John’s YouTube Channel- Watch services again at your convenience.
- 4) <bit.ly/SJBibleClass> - Online Bible Class sign in with Google Meet

Respectfully submitted, Jim Dretske sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com

Our Synod at Work

Called to Proclaim: World Missions

Last month we started a review of the “Called to Proclaim” section of the WELS Annual Report to Members by looking at Home Missions. This month we will review some of the highlights contained in the report regarding World Missions.

WELS World Missions conducts gospel outreach in 45 countries and is exploring outreach opportunities in 19 prospective new mission fields. World Missions works through evangelism efforts, church planting, training national workers for ministry, and provides materials in foreign languages through Multi-Language Productions. We have forty-four world missionaries that partner with more than 400 national pastors to conduct outreach and train more than 380 students in Christ’s kingdom.

World Missions supports mission work in the following areas:

1. Native American Reservations. The gospel is being shared on the Apache reservations in Arizona and exploratory mission work is beginning on other reservations throughout North America.
2. Africa. Missionaries partner with national church bodies in seven countries and are exploring outreach in at least six more countries throughout the continent. In August of 2023, members of WELS’ One Africa Team visited congregations in Tanzania that are part of the Africa Mission Evangelism Church, a Lutheran church body of almost one hundred congregations.
3. Asia. Sixteen missionaries have joined together to equip, encourage, and empower others to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to 1.9 billion unreached souls.
4. Latin America. Hundreds of thousands of people are being reached through Academia Cristo online courses and more than 25 individuals are actively leading a group in worship and study.
5. Europe. Missionaries partner with national churches to train the next generation of church leaders and bring the gospel to countries without a strong Lutheran presence.
6. Multi-Language Productions. They have produced materials in more than 56 languages and reach tens of thousands of English-speaking people in more than 30 different countries through the TELL online training program.

WELS has reached into Vietnam with the formal dedication of the new Theological Education Center in Hanoi and the graduation ceremony of the first class of 55 pastors from the Hmong Fellowship Church who have completed their seminary training.

WELS Joint Missions supports mission opportunities that are the responsibility of Home Missions, World Missions, and Ministerial Education. Much of the work centers on people-group ministries, where immigrants who have joined out fellowship in the United States and Canada are able to take the gospel back to friends and family.

Gerald Woodley

St. Paul's School

Board of Child Discipleship: Tell me more!

Structure of the Board of Child Discipleship

St. Paul's Lutheran School has a four-member Board of Child Discipleship (BOCD) responsible to the St. Paul's Church Council. One of the four men on the BOCD is a representative from St. John's congregation who is a voting board member but is not eligible to hold the position of chairman.

Generally, board decisions are made by consensus. Formal motions and recommendations are made by voice votes. Major recommendations, particularly those that involve staffing and the churches' financial support of the school, will be brought to the Church Council for ratification.

The BOCD supports the principal's leadership and looks to him for direction as it designs administrative rules and regulations consistent with school philosophies and policies.

BOCD Responsibilities

The Board of Child Discipleship (BOCD) carries out the church's mission by directing and supervising the school's operation. The BOCD ensures that all curricular and extracurricular programs serve the school's educational philosophy and objectives.

The BOCD is responsible for supervising the entire school's operation and the programs it controls. Since board members cannot oversee day-to-day school operations, the key responsibility of the BOCD is to develop guidelines and policies that steer the direction of the school's programs and operations.

BOCD members should promote the school through word and action. They should endeavor to advance Christian education through positive, God-pleasing leadership and encourage parents to enroll their children in the school.

We are currently served by Bob Martens (SP), David Schauer (SP), Shawn Bakke (SP), and Greg Diersen (SJ). Dear Lord, thank you for the work these men do for the church's ministry at our school.

Pete Markgraf
St. Paul's School Principal

Job Openings

St. Paul's School is looking for After Preschool Care workers who enjoy working with 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children. The position is open to anyone older than 18 and is for the school year. Contact Heidi Meyer at preschool@splnewulm.org with questions or to apply.

MN Valley Lutheran High School is looking for an individual to serve MVL as a full-time maintenance employee. The individual should be a member of a WELS or ELS church and can be male or female. Interested individuals should contact MVL Facility Manager Ken Opitz at kopitz@mvlhs.org or MVL Principal Tim Plath at tplath@mvlhs.org.

There are several job openings at Martin Luther College. For the complete list of openings and to apply go to mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

Central Africa Medical Mission

Managing diabetes at the Zambia Lutheran rural health center

Diabetes has become a disease affecting many people in Zambia. In our area, we started with three patients in 2004. The number kept on increasing so much that we now have seen over one hundred diabetic patients in 2024. The increase is as a result of a change in lifestyle. The change of lifestyle has brought diseases like diabetes and hypertension. Many patients used to go to herbalists where they were not getting any help and patients used to wait a long time before coming to our clinic primarily due to a lack of knowledge.



Unfortunately, the government does not yet support rural care of chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension. All the support of these chronic diseases was and is still focused on bigger, urban hospitals. In an effort to find out why there is no support for these diseases in rural areas, I went to the Ministry of Health. I was told that because these diseases are still so new in rural Zambia, the support had already been put in the urban areas where they have more diagnosed patients. As a result some of our diabetic patients have to travel 85 km to Lusaka for services at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH).

These patients are fortunate enough to have the money to travel for the services. Patients who come to us with signs and symptoms of diabetes still need to be referred to bigger hospitals such as UTH which is still a big problem in rural Zambia. This is because of money for transport. Patients with money are the only ones able to go. In an effort to help, the clinic staff decided to buy a glucometer with glucose test strips and have started testing for diabetes. In the first month, we tested twenty-five patients, of whom five had high readings of glucose. To start treatment, we referred them to UTH. Out of the five, only one managed to go for treatment. Four failed to go because they didn't have money. As a result, the clinic staff called for a meeting with village headmen to discuss the problem. This was done because one diabetic patient out of the four who failed to go to UTH unfortunately passed away from his condition. The calling of Headmen was done in line with the policy of the Central Board of Health. Any change of

a health program was to go through and be agreed by the community. All the headmen voted in favor of starting the diabetes program and I was able to get training and start a program in Zambia.

The program has grown so much that we now have patients from different areas (inside and outside of our area). Because of the help we get from CAMM and the quality services we provide for diabetes, the program is going very well. Managing diabetes properly has made the name of our clinic to go beyond our boundaries so much that we have diabetic patients coming from as far as Lusaka. Our community, patients and their relatives are happy with our diabetes programs. We are very grateful for the help in managing our diabetic patients. In the district, we are the only clinic involved in diabetes treatments. Some patients think our clinic is a mini hospital.

We have a diabetic clinic day once per month where we provide health education on diabetes. We are also privileged to have a nutritionist who was sent to our clinic this year in January of 2024. She focuses more on diabetic diet and the importance of maintaining the diet low in carbohydrates.

May God, the Almighty bless you in helping the poor in Zambia. In Christ Jesus,
Jackson Kalekwa
Clinical Officer In Charge.

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