



The sower sows his reckless love;
scatters abroad the goodly seed.

Christian Worship Blue: 895 Stanza 3



Seventh Sunday After Pentecost ~ July 15 / 16, 2023

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com
507-217-6364 Cell

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
Email: stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

Pastor Rob Guenther
pastorguenther@gmail.com
507-240-2433 Cell

 **YouTube**
bit.ly/SJyoutube

 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm

507-354-6744

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.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 15/16, 2023

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, you have given us your holy Word so that through it hearts may be converted and so produce fruits of repentance and faith. By your grace we ask that hearts will be prepared to receive the gospel message and as a result those who hear it will be saved. To this end please grant us the wisdom, courage, and zeal to sow the precious seed of your Word as we share it with as many as will hear and receive it. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

OPENING HYMN *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*

CW 644

CONFESSION

p. 154

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:6–11

6Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

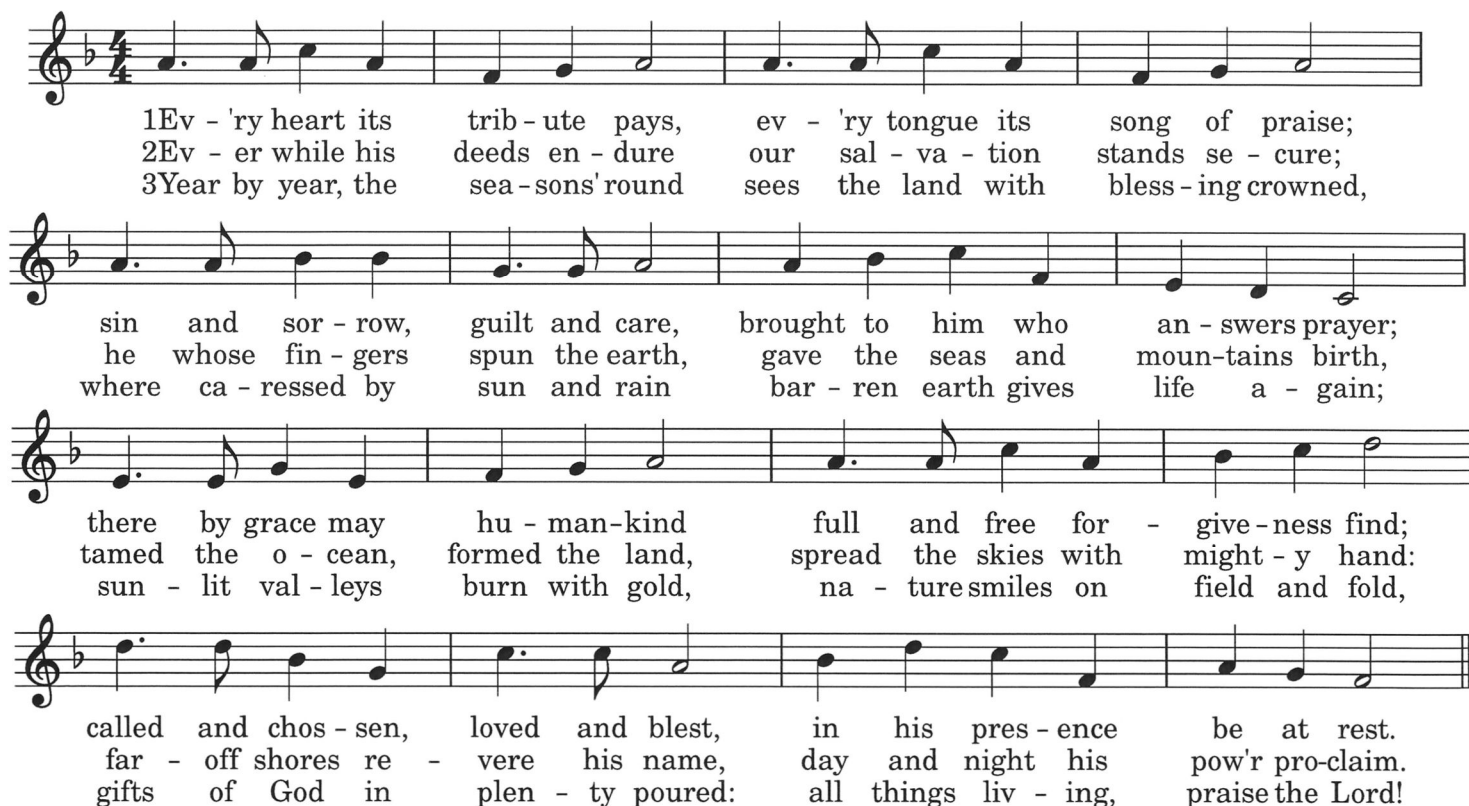
“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalms 65B



1 Ev - 'ry heart its trib - ute pays, ev - 'ry tongue its song of praise;
2 Ev - er while his deeds en - dure our sal - va - tion stands se - cure;
3 Year by year, the sea - sons' round sees the land with bless - ing crowned,
sin and sor - row, guilt and care, brought to him who an - swers prayer;
he whose fin - gers spun the earth, gave the seas and moun - tains birth,
where ca - ressed by sun and rain bar - ren earth gives life a - gain;
there by grace may hu - man - kind full and free for - give - ness find;
tamed the o - cean, formed the land, spread the skies with might - y hand:
sun - lit val - leys burn with gold, na - tures smiles on field and fold,
called and chos - sen, loved and blest, in his pres - ence be at rest.
far - off shores re - vere his name, day and night his pow'r pro - claim.
gifts of God in plen - ty poured: all things liv - ing, praise the Lord!

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 3:5–11

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain

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

My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I de - sire

and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Refrain

GOSPEL

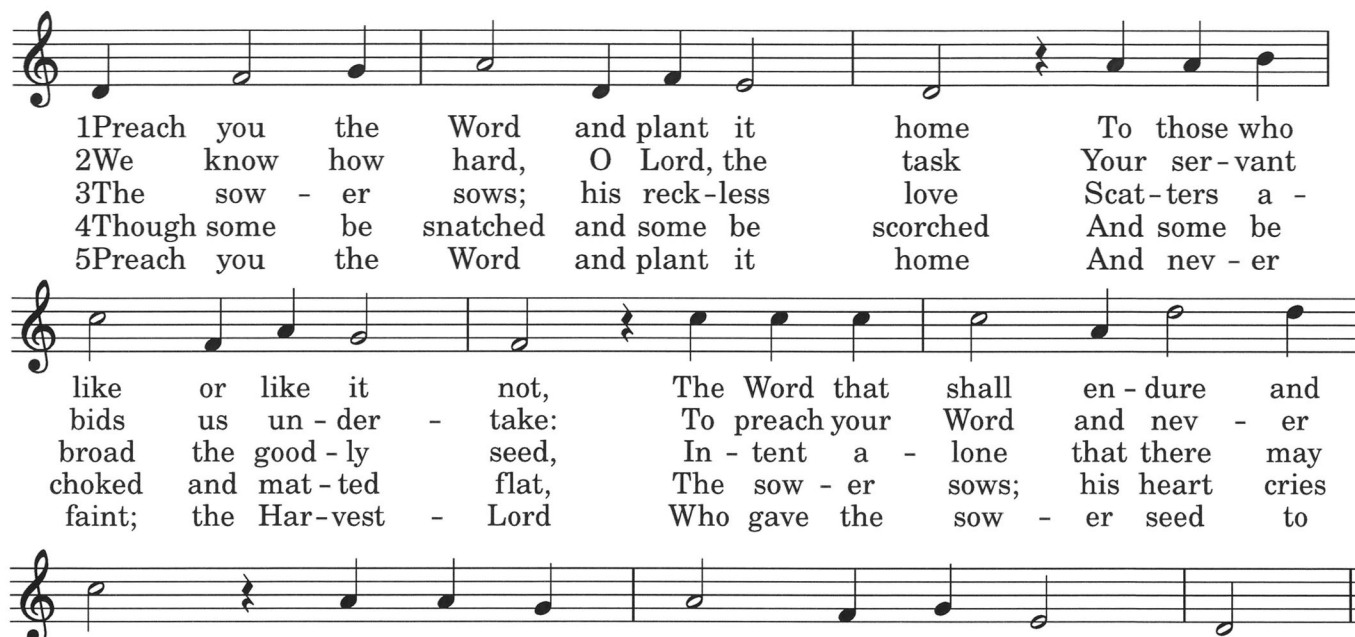
Matthew 13:1–9,18–23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁸“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!



1 Preach you the Word and plant it home To those who
 2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task Your ser- vant
 3 The sow - er sows; his reck- less love Scat- ters a -
 4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched And some be
 5 Preach you the Word and plant it home And nev - er

like or like it not, The Word that shall en - dure and
 bids us un - der - take: To preach your Word and nev - er
 broad the good - ly seed, In - tent a - lone that there may
 choked and mat - ted flat, The sow - er sows; his heart cries
 faint; the Har - vest - Lord Who gave the sow - er seed to

stand When flow'rs and mor - tals are for - got.
 ask What pride - ful prof - it it may make.
 be The whole - some loaves that peo - ple need.
 out, "Oh, what of that, and what of that?"
 sow Will watch and tend his plant - ed Word.

SERMON

Matthew 11:25-30

GOD'S WORD IS THE SEED OF SALVATION

1. SOWN INDISCRIMINATELY
2. RECEIVED IN DIFFERENT WAYS
3. PRODUCES FRUIT IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT

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 HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

CW855

PRAYERS (Contemporary) and BLESSING

p. 170

† † †

PREACHER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGAN

Adrian Smith

Welcome, Visitors! Please scan the QR code to sign our Guest Register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
	8 pm	Softball Game at Harman Park
Mon	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Tue	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wed	7 pm	Art Camp/VBS Planning Meeting
Fri	9 am	Summer Fellowship at German Park
Sat	6:30 pm	Worship

† **Upcoming Services** †

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul 23	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles
	12:30 pm	Walk in the Bavarian Blast Parade: John and Paul Ministries
	6:45 pm	Softball Game at Harman Park
Jul 24	7 pm	OWLS Meeting at St. Paul's Church
Jul 25	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Voters' Meeting
Jul 26	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
	7 pm	Campus Facilities Taskforce Meeting
Jul 28	9 am	Summer Fellowship at Hermann Heights Park
	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
Jul 29	10 am	Basement Reserved
	6:30 pm	Worship

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

Summer Events at St. John's!

Art Camp



Tuesday, August 8
through
Thursday, August 10
from 9 - 11:30 am

Grades 3 - 8

\$25 per camper



Vacation Bible School



Tuesday, August 15
through
Thursday, August 17
from 9 - 11:30 am

Grades PreK4 - 2

Sign up for the meal at: bit.ly/SJvbsMeal2023

\$5 per camper (\$10/family)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 396.

Fruits of faith given:

\$11,018	Home Operations ~ \$19,371 is our weekly need		
\$597	MVL ~ \$1,278 is our weekly need	\$1,485	Sanctuary Renovation
\$1,432	Missions ~ \$1,818 is our weekly need	\$1,125	Ministerial Education
\$392	Building Fund	\$90	MLC Ladies' Auxiliary

Voters' Meeting ~ Three bigger items needing voters' direction are on the agenda. The items include constitutional amendments, a contract for sanctuary renovations, and a review of the current budget deficit. The need is to have as many voters as possible in attendance on Tuesday, July 25, at 7 pm.

New and Improved Website ~ go to www.stjohnsnewulm.com to see our new and improved church website! We thank Jamie Milbrett for all the time put into making it look great!

Sanctuary Renovation ~ You can see the plans to renovate and thus beautify the sanctuary in the new narthex. This project will replace the flooring in the chancel and its auxiliary rooms and the nave, refinish the pews, replace the pew cushions, provide more handicap seating, designate a space for the handbells, and paint the walls. A member of the Facilities Task Force Committee is at the table with printouts of the layout along with examples of the selected floor tile and the pew fabric. Please stop by and see the renovation plans.

Art Camp and Vacation Bible School (VBS) Planning Meeting ~ will be Wednesday, July 19 at 7 pm. Please come if you are able to help with either (or both) events!

Art Camp and Vacation Bible School (VBS) ~ Follow the QR codes to register for Art Camp and VBS. Or go to bit.ly/SJArtCamp2023 and bit.ly/SJvbs2023 (after paying be sure to come back to the registration page to submit the registration).

New This Year ~ There will be a potluck meal following the last day of VBS. The donation sign up for the meal can be found at bit.ly/SJvbsMeal2023.

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 and a picnic lunch (optional). Feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Erika Grundmeier at (989) 529-8729.

Jul 21 German Park: 200 N. German St.

July 28 Hermann Heights Park: 14 Monument St.

August 4 North Park: 1801 N. State St. (Splash Pad available starting later in the morning)

Handbell Players Needed! ~ The handbell choir will be playing for the Anniversary Service on Aug 6. Some of our regular players cannot play, so now is your chance! If you'd like to try it without a long term commitment, this is the right time. Practices are July 26 and August 2 at 6 pm. Even if you can only make one of the practices, I think you'll be fine. Please contact Becky Berg at 989-280-7674 or rberg@mvlhs.org as soon as you can! Thank you!

75th Anniversary Choir ~ A special anniversary service choir is being assembled to sing for the anniversary services on August 6. Participating in this choir would involve two rehearsals: Wednesday, July 26 and Wednesday, August 2 beginning at 7 pm. The rehearsals will take place in the church balcony. There will also be a warm-up on Sunday, August 6, before the service. If you are interested in being part of this special choir, please contact Craig Hirschmann at chirschmann1@gmail.com. Please indicate preferred voice: soprano, alto, tenor, or bass.

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

Walk in the Bavarian Blast Parade ~ Join John and Paul Ministries in walking in the Bavarian Blast Parade on July 23rd beginning at 12:30 pm! We will hand out John and Paul Ministries sunglasses and information regarding outreach events and worship schedules! Please sign-up to walk at johnandpaulministries.com under the Bavarian Blast Parade tab.

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) cordially invites you to attend the Concert in the Park, at German Park in New Ulm on Monday evening, July 24, beginning at 7 pm. Larry Mages & The Mages Family Band will be performing. In case of inclement weather, the concert would be held at the New Ulm Community Center. Following the concert, OWLS members and friends are invited to the Fireside Room at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, for some root beer floats. Reservations are not required.

About the Cover~ The Seed of God's Word is sown indiscriminately on many hearts of many people. Some will reject it to their own loss. However, some will receive it by faith, and as a result gain peace with God and eternal life in heaven.