



Minor Festival of St. Joseph: Guardian of Our Lord March 18 / 19, 2023



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.

Minor Festival: St. Joseph

March 18/19, 2023

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, the great miracle of Jesus' incarnation on our behalf brought about the salvation of the entire human race. But it is only through faith that we receive the blessings you offer to all. Teach us to be like Joseph who even against what seemed unreasonable, followed your Word and command, trusting that you, dear Lord, would keep your promises. Lead us, as you led Joseph, to guide others to do your will. Make us guardians of the truth of your saving gospel message which alone can save the souls of the lost and grant us eternal life in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

OPENING HYMN *O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild* **CW540**

CONFESSION p. 154

FIRST LESSON **2 Samuel 7:4,8–16**

⁴But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

⁸“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 127D



1Un - less the Lord the house shall build, the wea - ry
2In vain you rise at morn - ing break, in vain your
3Yes, chil - dren are a great re - ward, a gift from
4How blest are those whose lives are cheered by chil - dren's



build - ers toil in vain; un - less the Lord the cit - y
late - night vig - ils keep, and drain - ing days of work par -
God in ver - y truth; as quiv - er full of ar - rows
growth in strength and grace. With - in their house no foes are



shield, the guards a use - less watch main - tain.
take - those whom God loves fall fast a - sleep.
stored are chil - dren giv'n in days of youth.
feared, for God keeps watch with - in that place.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 4:13-18

¹³It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain



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



Joseph did what the angel of the Lord had com - mand - ed him

Refrain



and took Mary home as his wife.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13–15,19–23

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

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

HYMN of the DAY

Our Father, by Whose Name

CW761

SERMON

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15, 19-23

JOSEPH: THE GUARDIAN OF OUR LORD

1. GUIDED BY GUARDIAN ANGELS

2. GOD’S GUIDE TO GALILEE AGAINST THE MISGUIDED

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

I Walk in Danger All the Way

CW836

PRAYERS (*Contemporary*) and BLESSING

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† † †

PREACHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGAN

Pastor Jeff Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Craig Hirschmann

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the 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: Passion History
	3 pm	MLC Choir Concert
	4 pm	Marriage Tune-Up
Mon	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wed	11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Services
	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7:15 pm	Choir
Thu	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: Minor Prophets
	4:30 pm	75th Anniversary Meeting
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: Great Prayers of the Bible
Fri	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
Sat	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

Wednesday: 11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm

Saturday: 6:30 pm

Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 26	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Passion History
Mar 29	11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Services
	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7:15 pm	Choir
Mar 30	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: Minor Prophets
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: Great Prayers of the Bible
Mar 31	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: <i>The Screentape Letters</i>
	6 pm	Youth Group: Decorate for Easter for Kids
Apr 1	8:30 am	Easter for Kids
	5 pm	MVL Auction at Turner Hall
	6:30 pm	Palm Sunday Worship
Apr 2	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Palm Sunday Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class
	4 pm	Marriage Tune-Up
Apr 3	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
	7 pm	Choir
Apr 4	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 355.

Fruits of faith given from the past four weeks:

\$55,683	Home Operations ~ \$18,540 is our weekly need	\$50	Ministerial Student Scholarship		
\$4,106	MVL ~ \$1,214 is our weekly need	\$1,010	Kitchen Fund		
\$6,183	Missions ~ \$1,754 is our weekly need	\$1,530	K-12 Education Assistance		
\$2,413	Building Fund	\$410	St. Paul's School Building Fund		
\$170	Food & Fellowship	\$110	Memorials		
\$100	Benevolence Fund	\$50	Endowment	\$100	Technology Equipment
\$60	LWMS	\$60	MLC	\$60	Iris Boxes
\$50	MLC Ladies' Aux.	\$50	Lutheran Charities	\$50	Christian Family Solutions

Easter for Kids ~ St. John's Youth Group will be hosting Easter for Kids on Saturday, April 1st from 9 - 11 am. Grades PreK4 through 5th grade will be able to celebrate our Lord and Savior's Resurrection through a variety of activities. Doors will open at 8:30 am for check in and an early craft. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Ulicky at kru8880@gmail.com. Please sign up at bit.ly/SJE4K23, www.stjohnsnew.com/news or scan on the QR Code.



Youth Group! ~ The Youth Group will be hosting Easter for Kids again this year on April 1st at St. John's Church in New Ulm. Please be at church on Saturday morning at 8 am. After the event we will clean up and have a pizza party for all volunteers. We are also decorating the church on Friday, March 31st from 6 - 9 pm so if you are able to attend please sign up for that, too. Snacks will be provided. If you have any questions contact me at kru8880@gmail.com. Please sign up for Friday and/or Saturday at <https://signup.com/go/NUiqNDk> or scan the QR code.



Thank You ~ Thank you to all the volunteers that helped clean the church last Saturday. *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. Ecclesiastes 4:9*

Women of St. John's Meeting ~ Our April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4th at 7 pm in the church basement. Please join us for a presentation by a New Ulm police officer on personal safety and self defense.

2023 Pictorial Directory ~ The 2023 Edition of the St. John's Church Directory is complete and printed. Our members may take one of either size (8x11 or 5x8) per family. They are located in both the back narthex and the new narthex by the windows.

Wish List Item ~ St. John's congregation will observe its 75th Anniversary on Sunday, August 6. The Anniversary Committee would like to add a festive touch to our anniversary celebration by having a well-known composer write a musical piece for the occasion. We would like to commission John Behnke to write a concertato on hymn 861, "Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head." This commissioned piece would utilize the many musical resources of our congregation: choir, organ, brass, timpani, handbells, and the voices of our congregation. This is estimated to come in around \$900-\$1,200. We are hoping to gather funds quickly, as the composer will need time to work on the composition.

Iris Boxes ~ The Iris Box Project is a new ministry at St. John's. The Iris Box is designed to be given to families who lost their baby through miscarriage or stillbirth. The items included in the box are intended as a source of comfort and a symbol of our love and care. Members are welcomed and encouraged to pick up a box from the church office for any family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker, etc. who experiences a miscarriage or stillbirth. *(A limited number of boxes are currently available. There will be more soon.)* If you would like to support the Iris Box Project, you may donate the amount for a box (approx. \$40/box) or any amount. You may include it in your offering envelope with "Iris Box Project" on the envelope. If you knit or crochet and would like to help by making small blankets, please contact Kelly by phone or email listed below. Yarn will be provided to you. Please contact Kelly Diersen (507-766-9085) or Catherine St. John (248-346-0402) or email irisboxproject@gmail.com if you have any 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 College Choir Homecoming Concert ~ is this Sunday, March 19th at 3 pm in The Chapel of the Christ. Come hear a wealth of beautiful sacred music for voice and instruments in the final concert of the College Choir's recent Western U.S. tour. WELS composer Jeremy Bakken will present a pre-concert talk about his music in the chapel's basement fellowship room, beginning at 2:15 pm. Join us for a special afternoon of God's word in song!

Men Mentoring Men ~ Join us for our 8th annual Men of Truth Conference where we are focusing on mentoring each other as men. Our keynote speaker is Jeremy Mattek, with workshops by Ben Burk and Jon Schaefer. The conference date is March 25th. More information and registration can be found at www.menoftruth.org.

Preschool Registration at St. Paul's School ~ St. Paul's Preschool, New Ulm, now taking applications for the 2023-2024 school year! Visit <https://splnewulm.org/school/preschool/> for more information or to apply. We are excited to share the love of Jesus and the love of learning with your 3,4 or 5 year old!

ProMusica Minnesota ~ ProMusica Minnesota will be performing the grand finale of the 2022-23 New Ulm Concert Series with The Emperor and Brahms. The concert is at 3 pm on Sunday, March 26th in Chapel of the Christ at Martin Luther College. Tickets can be purchased at promusicamn.com.

MVL Summer Camps ~ Check out the trifold brochure or the poster on the youth board in the new narthex for information. Go to www.mvl.org to register by April 28th.

WELS Youth Night ~ on Sunday, March 26th from 6 - 8:15 pm at The Beacon ministry center in Mankato. This event is free and is designed specifically for all teens in 9th-12th grade. There will be food, fun, fellowship, and most importantly faith. Please sign up in advance using the QR code. Contact Stephanie Otto with questions at sotto@gustavus.edu.



SW Area Lutheran Chorale ~ concerts will be held on Sunday, March 26th at 2 pm at St. John's Lutheran in Vesta and at 7 pm at St. John's Lutheran in Sleepy Eye. Each free concert will be followed by refreshments for all in attendance. A freewill offering will be gathered to support *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*. More information at www.homeformothers.com. Please join us!

Easter Outreach Baskets and community canvas! ~ Join John and Paul Ministries on **April 1st from 12 - 2 pm** to assemble 400 Easter outreach baskets and/or canvas throughout our community to invite our neighbors to Easter worship! A complimentary volunteer pizza lunch starts the event at noon, so please sign-up using the poster QR codes or the form at johnandpaulministries.com. We look forward to seeing you there!



To fill the outreach baskets, donations of the following are appreciated (400 of each are needed): Easter Candy and/or Jelly Beans (new, in original packaging, 10 oz. or above) and Seed Packets for midwest flowers, herbs, or vegetables (new, in original packaging).

MVL Booster Club Auction ~ you are invited to wear your favorite jeans and come to this year's Jeans and Dreams Booster Club Auction! Join us on Saturday, April 1st at historic Turner Hall in New Ulm for this free event! Doors and cash bar open at 5 pm. Free-will donation for dinner. Live and silent auction, buy-it-now table, Plinko, and MORE! New additions to the event will make it a wonderful night supporting the needs of the students MVL!

MN Valley Lutheran Camp ~ (formerly "Camp Shetek"). Information and registration is open at www.campshetek.org. Register early for a discount. Information can be found in the narthex.

About the Cover ~ The symbol of St. Joseph which is printed on the bulletin cover portrays a builder's square, the reminder that Joseph was by trade a carpenter. Behind it is the lily, an ancient symbol of purity. It depicts the purity of the Virgin Mary, Joseph's wife, who was a virgin bride even though she was with child when he married her. It was through the miraculous conception of the Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Although he was not the biological father of Jesus, Joseph's role in the life of our Lord was tremendous. He was truly made the Guardian of Our Lord.