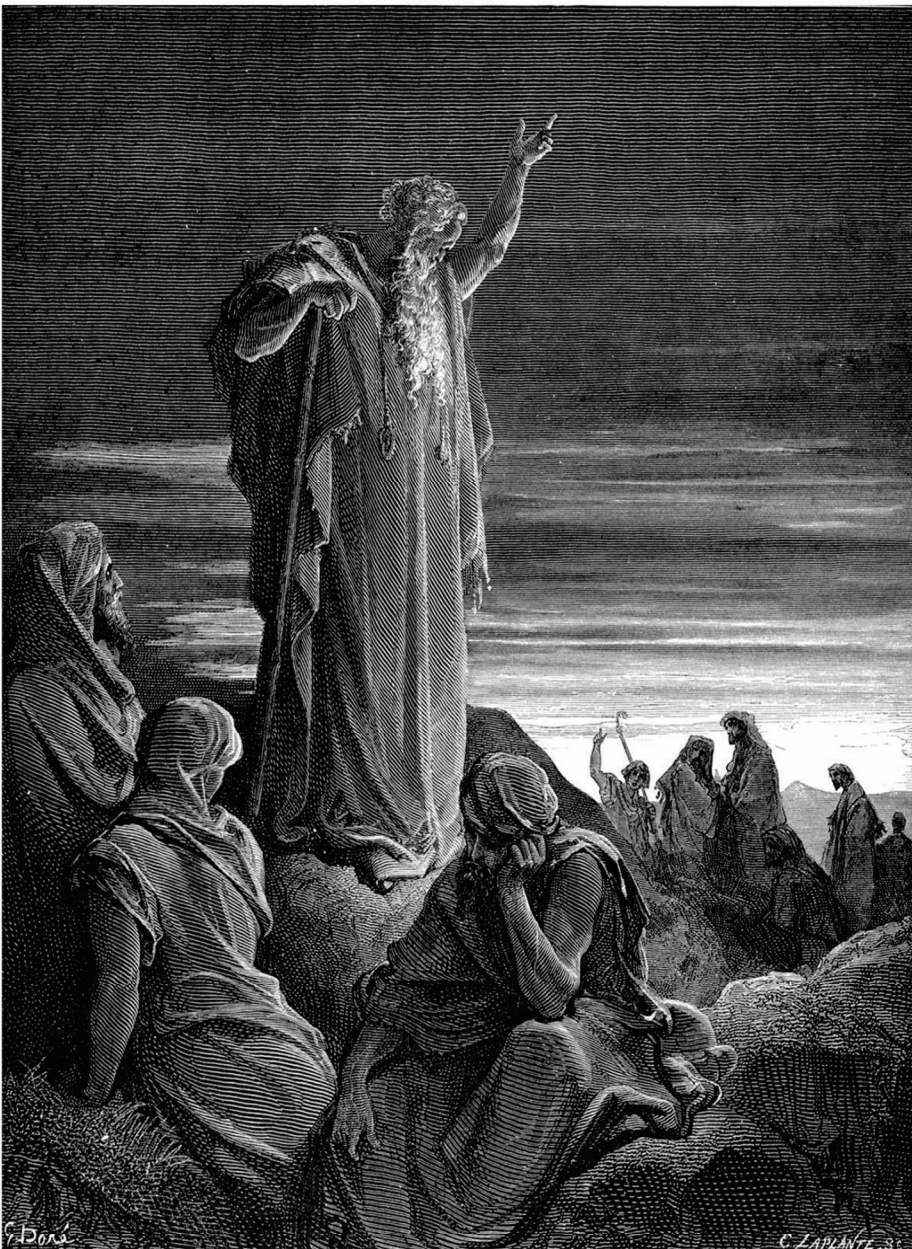




Rid yourselves of
all the offenses you
have committed,
and get a new
heart and a new
spirit. Why will you
die, O house of
Israel? For I take
no pleasure in the
death of anyone,
declares the
Sovereign LORD.
Repent and live!
Ezekiel 18:31-32

Pentecost 18 • September 30 / October 1, 2023



Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com
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St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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

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.

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, whose judgment is just and whose power is beyond that of any: Please be merciful to us, sinful though we are. In your mercy withhold the punishment we deserve. In your grace please grant us the blessings we know we could never earn, but which you promise us through your Son, Jesus, our great Redeemer. Lead us to repentance, and give us the ability to live according to your will. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ who lived and died for us to set us free from sin, death, and the devil. Amen.

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Two* page 172

OPENING HYMN***At the Name of Jesus*****CW547****CONFESSION**

p. 172

FIRST LESSON**Ezekiel 18:1–4,25–32**

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: “ ‘The parents eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?’

³“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.”

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

³⁰“Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:1–11

¹Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spir - it;

a broken and contrite heart you will not de - spise.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23–32

²³Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹“ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY *As Surely as I Live, God Said* **CW656**

SERMON **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

God Does Not Delight in Punishment

1. The sentence of death has been decreed for each of us
2. The promise of life is granted to all of us

NICENE CREED p. 180

OFFERING/ COMMUNION

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

Distribution Hymn *Take and Eat* **CW676**

PRAYERS (*Contemporary*) **and BLESSING** p. 187

CLOSING HYMN *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* **CW730**

† † †

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Heart in Focus
	1 pm	MLC Wind Symphony Concert
Mon	1 pm	Stewardship Meeting
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6 pm	Women of St. John's at Sleepy Eye Golf Club
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
	5:30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Sat	9 am	MLC Auxiliary Meeting at MLC
	4 pm	Clobes / Pierce Wedding
	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 8	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
		NO Sunday School or Bible Class
Oct 9	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Oct 11	10 am	Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Oct 12	10:30 am	Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	3 pm	College Choir Rehearsal
	7 pm	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Oct 13	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
	3 pm	College Choir Rehearsal
Oct 14	9 am	Cards of Caring at 403 N. Minnesota St.
	5:30 pm	Movie Night at St. Paul's School
	6:30 pm	Worship

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 584.

Fruits of faith given:

\$14,319	Home Operations ~ \$26,971 is our weekly need		
\$849	MVL ~ \$1,278 is our weekly need	\$100	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$751	Missions ~ \$1,818 is our weekly need	\$55	Ministerial Student Scholarship
\$913	Building Fund	\$10	Food & Fellowship
\$1,300	75th Ann. Sanctuary Renovation		

Anonymous Gift ~ St. John's has received an anonymous gift of \$10,000, which was designated for sanctuary renovation (\$5,000) and the general operating fund (\$5,000). We thank the donor for your generous support of the Gospel ministry.

Women of St. John's ~ It is time for our annual Ladies' Night Out. Our October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3rd at 6 pm at the Sleepy Eye Golf Club- Prairie Greens Bar & Grill. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the new narthex for a headcount. We will order from the menu and pay that evening. Please join us for food, fun and fellowship. If you need a ride, please contact Sarah Logston.

MLC Advent Devotion Booklets ~ This Advent you can explore the mysteries surrounding Christ's birth in *The Mysteries of Christmas: Many Millennia, Many Mysteries, One Messiah*. You can preorder your books at bit.ly/MLCAdventBook2023. Please bring or send payment of \$1 per booklet to the church office by Tuesday, October 3.

Volunteer Opportunities ~ The St. John's Board of Evangelism is looking for volunteers who are willing and able to help in a few roles in our Fellowship and Outreach efforts. If you are interested in any of the opportunities to serve or have questions about any of them, please reach out to Jesse Zahrt: evangelism@stjohnsnewulm.com

Fellowship Activities. This could be one or more people depending upon the volunteer(s) comfort level and schedule availability. The three areas we're looking for help with are:

Fellowship Coordinator: Leads the Fellowship Committee and coordinates our fellowship activities and events - which include the two other roles below.

Bible class coffee and treats: The main tasks are coordinating volunteers to make coffee each week, managing the sign-up for volunteers to bring treats, and placing an order once a month when St. John's hosts the treats.

Fellowship events: The main tasks for this are reserving locations, coordinating food as needed, and being the liaison with non-St. John's parties. These events include things like the annual church picnic, church campout, swimming event, and Flandrau fellowship.

Audio Visual Team. This team assists with the streaming St. John's worship on YouTube and handle about one service per month in the 8am Sunday service. The work involves arriving about fifteen minutes early and wrapping up briefly after the morning's final hymn. Some folks prefer to work with a partner, others choose to fly solo. The current staff is generous about swapping and substituting for one another when there are schedule conflicts.

Martin Luther College Choir ~ Join us on Sunday, October 15 at 10:30 am as the Martin Luther College Choir, under the direction of Prof. Adrian Smith, presents a choral concert titled "Piercing the Darkness." The program will include settings of familiar hymns, as well as selections by choral music composers representing a variety of musical styles.

Martin Luther College is part of the worker training program of the synod. The college prepares teachers and staff ministers who are ready to accept positions in our congregations. It also prepares men to enter Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to complete their training to serve as pastors. A freewill offering will be taken to support the training of future gospel servants at MLC. Come and meet some of our future workers and enjoy the music they bring.

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, October 14th and 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.

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. Duties include accompanying clients as they select their food options based on distribution guidelines, weighing carts, and pushing carts to the garage where the clients load their items into their cars. If you 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). If you have questions, call Carla or Deb. You will be notified when you are scheduled to volunteer.

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

MVL's Charger Junior Choir ~ This fall, MVL will again be hosting a Charger Junior Choir. The choir is open to students currently in 6th-8th grades that attend any of our association schools or churches. The choir will rehearse six times between October and December and will perform at the MVL Christmas Concert on Dec. 21st. More information regarding the choir is available on the school website, mvl.org, as well as through your school's choir directors or principals. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Hermanson at jhermanson@mvlhs.org.

Fall Family Adventures Hosted by District 19 Lutheran Girl Pioneers ~ "An Afternoon at 7-mile Creek Park" on Sunday, October 1 at 2 pm. Bring a snack to share for the snack buffet. There will be some yard games. There are trails for hiking, playground equipment, 2 volleyball courts and a ball diamond. Connect with District 19 on Facebook!

MLC Wind Symphony Concert ~ *Let the drums roll out, let the trumpet call, while the people shout, "Strike up the Band!"* Please join the Martin Luther College Wind Symphony for their opening concert of the year on Sunday, October 1. As part of our Homecoming weekend activities, this concert has a special start time of 1 pm. Works by Grainger, Vaughan-Williams, and Fillmore will be featured in a program highlighting some of the classics in wind band repertoire. We look forward to seeing you there!

WELS Night: Minnesota Timberwolves vs. LA Clippers ~ on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 6 pm. See Anthony Edwards and the Minnesota Timberwolves take on the Los Angeles Clippers! Following the game, WELS members will have the opportunity to shoot a free throw on the court! Scan the QR code to purchase tickets with promo code: 2324WELS. Contact Cameron Schwarz at Cameron.schwarz@timberwolves.com with questions.

Job Openings ~ Assistant head cook needed at St Paul's Lutheran School. Job duties include but are not limited to preparing & serving lunch and clean up. If interested please pick up an application at St Paul's school or church office. If you have questions please feel free to contact me at cook@splnewulm.org.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School is in need of bus drivers. If you are interested in becoming a bus driver, contact Ray Vulcan at rayv@palmerbusservice.com.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School is also looking a substitute worker for the kitchen. Are you interested in casual employment or volunteering in the MVL kitchen? This is an on-call position to substitute on days regular workers are gone. Please contact Beth Fluegge for more information at foodservice@mvlhs.org or call or text 507-993-5195.

About the Cover ~ The prophet Ezekiel spoke to the people of Judah and Israel during some very difficult times. Due to their sins, the LORD had delivered them into the hands of their enemies. Yet, the prophet did not speak merely of doom, gloom, and judgment. He offered the people the gracious mercy of God who encouraged and implored them to turn from their sin and repent. God makes it clear that he does not delight in the punishment of the wicked, but would rather have them turn from their sin and live.

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

