

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.



Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

June 15 / 16, 2024



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

 **YouTube:**
bit.ly/SJyoutube

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street
New Ulm, MN

www.stjohnsnewulm.com

Email: office@stjohnsnewulm.com

 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm

507-354-6744



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:

Behold the Savior sends forth His Spirit in His Word;

The prideful world with its stoney heart stands hard against its Lord.

O Savior, crush this stone! Create my heart anew.

That I may treasure your saving grace and bear rich fruits to you.

Break up the fallow ground; it's time to seek the Lord.

Sow to the Spirit in righteousness, and reap the Spirit's reward. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(Hymn by Mike Thom: *Behold the Sower Goes Forth*, #13, stanzas 2 & 3: "Lutheran Hymns for Church and Home")

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Three* page 188

OPENING HYMN ***Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure*** **CW859**

CONFESSION p. 188

FIRST LESSON **Ezekiel 17:22–24**

²²“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. ²⁴All the trees of the forest will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

“ ‘I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.’ ”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY ***Blessed Are They*** **Psalm 1**

SECOND LESSON **Colossians 1:3–8**

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world— just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

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!

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Je - sus Christ.

To him be glory both now and forever! A - men. *Refrain*

GOSPEL

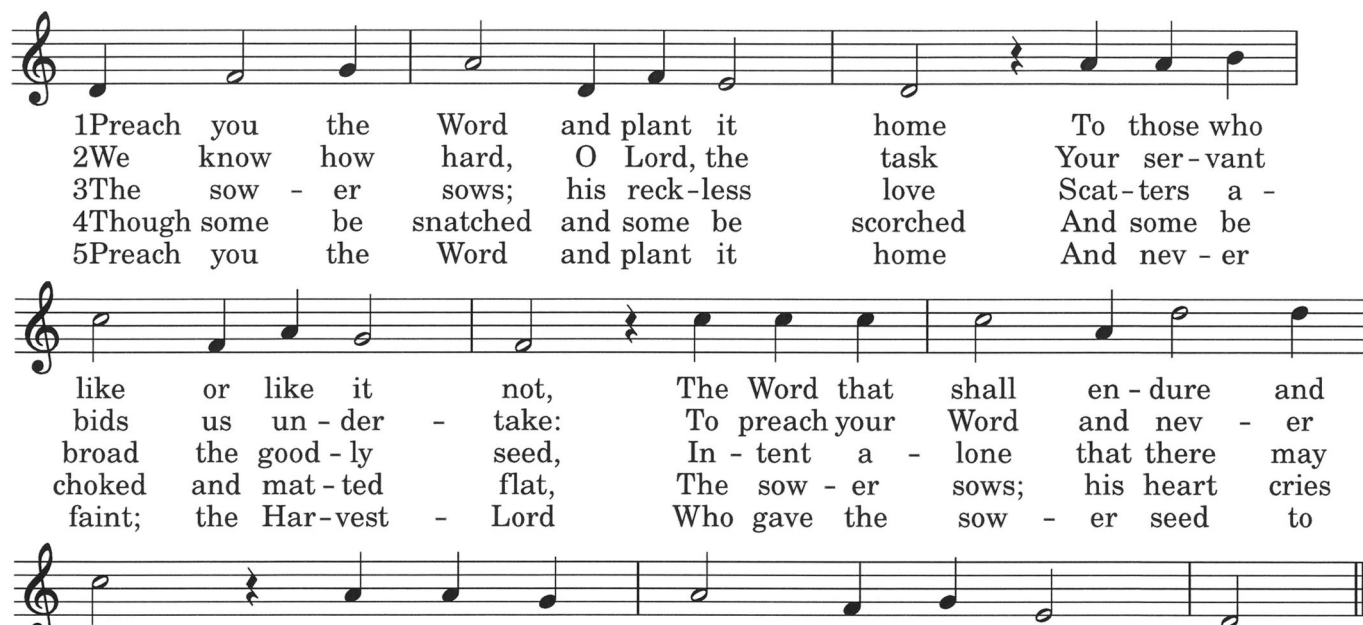
Mark 4:26–34

²⁶He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³²Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

³³With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

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

Mark 4:26-34

LESSONS OF THE KINGDOM FROM THE GARDEN OF GOD

1. THE POWER TO GROW IS IN THE SEED
2. THE GROWTH OF THE SEED IS POWERFUL

NICENE CREED

p. 196

OFFERING / COMMUNION

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

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

CW667

PRAYERS and BLESSING

p. 203

CLOSING HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown

CW925

† † †

PREACHER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Rob Guenther

ORGAN

Becky Berg

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Bible Class: Bible Stories Not Taught in Sunday School
Mon		Renovation Begins
Fri	9 am	Fellowship in the Park: Harman Park
Fri-Sun		Church Campout in Sleepy Eye
Sat	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 23	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Bible Class: Bible Stories Not Taught in Sunday School
	7 pm	St. John's Softball Game at Harman Park: Field #3
Jun 25	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Jun 28	9 am	Fellowship in the Park: North Market Park
Jun 29	6:30 pm	Worship
Jun 30	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Bible Class: Bible Stories Not Taught in Sunday School
	7 pm	St. John's Softball Game at Harman Park: Field #3
Jul 1	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Jul 4		Church office closed
Jul 6	6:30 pm	Worship
Jul 7	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Mission Presentation by Pastor Ben Foxen
Jul 8	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Jul 9	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Jul 12	9 am	Fellowship in the Park: Nehl's Park
Jul 13	6:30 pm	Worship
Jul 14	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Bible Class: Bible Stories Not Taught in Sunday School
Jul 16	7 pm	Council Meeting
Jul 19	9 am	Fellowship in the Park: South Park
Jul 20	6:30 pm	Worship
Jul 21	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Bible Class: Bible Stories Not Taught in Sunday School
	12:30 pm	John & Paul Ministries: Walk in Bavarian Blast Parade
Jul 23	7 pm	Voters' Meeting

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 341.

Sanctuary Renovation ~ will happen in the next two months. Our members have contributed to this renovation by praying, serving on committees, and contributing monetary gifts and with time and talents. Here is the progression of events for you to enjoy watching.

- The painting of the walls and diffusers is started and soon will be completed.
- The chairs for the special seating have arrived.
- Prior to June 15th or 24th, six pews will be shortened to provide additional space for special seating.
- The new flooring should be installed during the weeks of June 15th or 24th.
- During the weeks of either July 8th or 15th, new pew padding will be installed.

These major changes will be followed by touch up painting. An assessment of the acoustics will be made after the renovations. Join your fellow members in delightful anticipation and thanksgiving as we beautify our revered space for worshipful interaction with our gracious God.

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. The full schedule list can be found in the narthex.

Jun 21 Harman Park

Church Campout 2024 ~ We are excited to announce that after taking a year off, the church campout is back on the calendar for June 21-23! It will be held again at the Sportsmen's Park in Sleepy Eye. Like in previous years, there will be a church service held at the campground over the weekend, and there will be several other fellowship opportunities as well. Reserve your spot at: bit.ly/ChurchCampout24. We hope to see many of you there!

Africa Missionary at St John's in July ~ Pastor Benjamin Foxen will be guest preaching the first weekend of July. He and his family will also be giving a presentation about life and mission work in Zambia and throughout Africa after the 9:30 service on Sunday, July 7 concluding with a potluck lunch. Please contact Sarah Logston (logstonsarah@gmail.com) with any questions.

Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund ~ We are pleased to report that for the 2024-25 school year there are 11 students from St. John's who are planning to attend Martin Luther College or Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to prepare for serving in the public ministry. To encourage these students and assist in meeting the rising cost of their education, we plan to send MLC and WLS financial assistance to be applied to each student's account. As of May 19, \$5,295 has been contributed. Please consider making a special offering for this purpose. MLC's Congregational Partner Grant Program will match the support that a congregation provides up to \$1,450 per student. If you make a contribution for this purpose, please indicate whether you want your offering to go to the regular Ministerial Student Assistance Fund or to the Ministerial Student Assistance Endowment Fund. Offerings to the endowment fund are invested, and only the

investment earnings are distributed each year. Offerings to the regular student assistance fund are distributed in the current school year.

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 Golf Classic ~ This event supports our tuition assistance program for a Christ-centered education at MVL. Each year, through sponsorships, golf fees, and outright donations, thousands of dollars are raised for MVL families. On Monday, July 8, golfer sign-in will begin at 10 am with a shotgun start at 11 am at the New Ulm Country Club. The \$125 golf fee includes 18 holes, a shared cart, and dinner. Lunch will be available for purchase at the grill. Bring a guest to dinner for an additional \$25. Register now at mvl.org!

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

Staff Minister Jim Dretske
Teacher Christine Baganz
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Phil Scriver
Teacher Emily Stoering
St. John's Church Office

sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com
cbaganz@splnewulm.org
lbalsa@splnewulm.org
pscrivier@splnewulm.org
estoering@splnewulm.org
office@stjohnsnewulm.com

About the Cover ~ The photo on the cover is a bird perching in the branches of a mustard plant. Although mustard plants begin from tiny dried up seeds, they can grow into a plant that is upwards of eight feet tall and able to support the weight of the birds that perch on it and enjoy the shade it provides. Jesus therefore compared the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. God's kingdom appears small, dried up, and weak in the eyes of the people of this world. But in reality, is alive and powerful. It grows by God's grace and becomes a place that welcomes all people to find comfort, rest, and shelter from the burden of sin.

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

