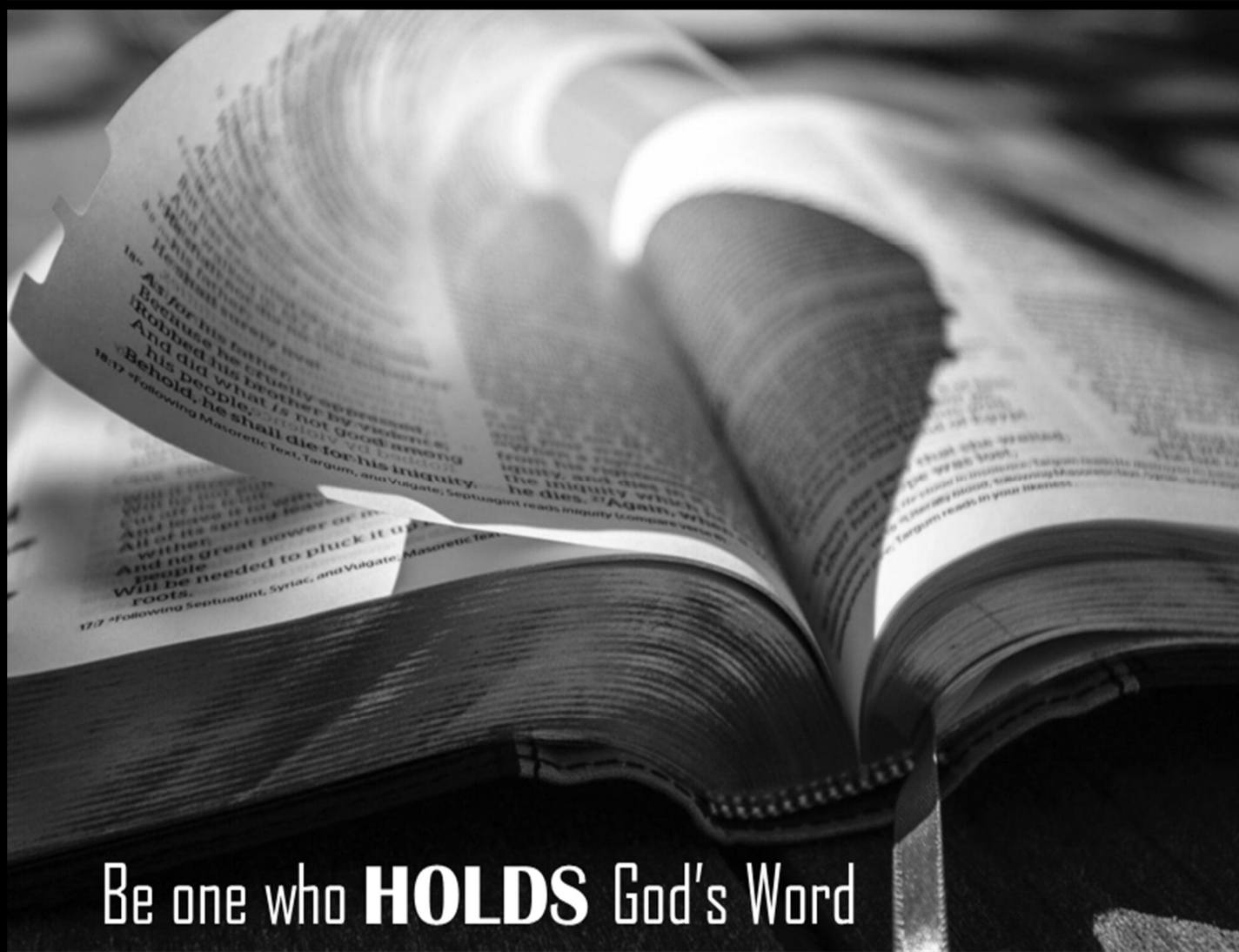


St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Be one who **HOLDS** God's Word

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31/September 1, 2024

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
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Pastor Rob Guenther
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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

Prayer before worship: Dear God, thank you for the blessings you've given us by your Word. Forgive us for the times that we've neglected or ignored your Word. Forgive us for the times we've disobeyed your Word. Thank you for your gospel decrees that assure us that we are forgiven for such sins by Jesus' work on our behalf by his perfect life and innocent death on the cross. Now help us, by your Spirit, to cling to your Word, to rejoice in the forgiveness you give us, and to live by your Word and share it with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

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

OPENING HYMN *Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds*

CW758

CONFESSION

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FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

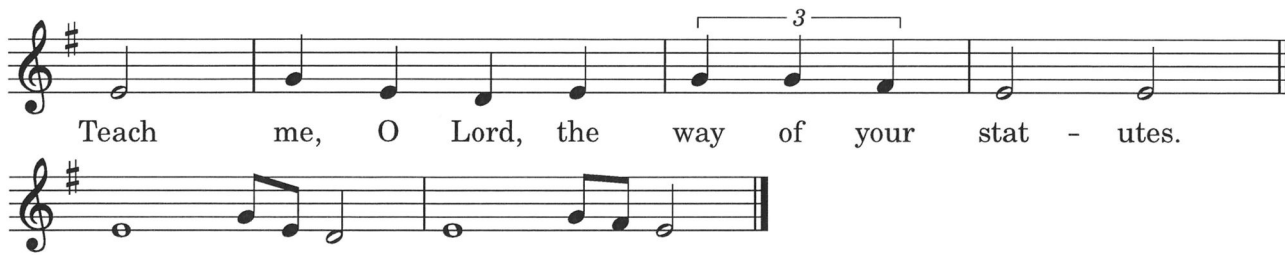
¹Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

⁶Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." ⁷What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

⁹Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Your statutes are / wonderful;
 therefore I o- / bey them.
 The unfolding of your words / gives light;
 it gives understanding to the / simple.
 Turn to me and have mer- / cy on me,
 as you always do to those who / love your name. *Refrain*

Direct my footsteps according / to your word;
 let no sin rule / over me.
 Redeem me from human op- / pression,
 that I may obey your / precepts.
 Make your face shine on your / servant
 and teach me / your decrees.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 9:30—10:4

³⁰What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. ³²Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³As it is written: “See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

¹Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ²For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. ⁴Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Mark 7:1–8,14-15,21–23

¹The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ²and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ ⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

¹⁴Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

²¹For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²²adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY

O God, My Faithful God

CW740

SERMON

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Be One Who H.O.L.D.S. God's Word

1. Hear
2. Observe
3. Live
4. Don't Forget
5. Show

NICENE CREED

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OFFERING / COMMUNION

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

DISTRIBUTION

Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

CW573

HYMNS

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

CW563

PRAYERS and BLESSING

p. 170

† † †

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGAN

Pastor Jacob Behnken

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



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.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Mon		Labor Day: Church office closed
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6 pm	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Wed		Public Catechism
	7 pm	Choir
Thu	10 am	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues *NOTE TIME CHANGE
	7 pm	Bible Class: Proverbs
Fri	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Proverbs
Sat	5 pm	Summer Send-Off at St. Paul's School
	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 8	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	8 am	Sunday School Teacher Installation
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Psalms
	3 pm	Cancer Support Group Meeting
Sep 9	11:30 am	OWLS Meeting
	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Sep 11		Public Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Sep 12	10 am	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
	7 pm	Bible Class: Proverbs
Sep 13	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Proverbs
Sep 14	9 am	Facilities Task Force Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship
Sep 15	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Psalms
Sep 17	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Sep 18		Public Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 679.

Fruits of faith given:

\$8,939	Home Operations ~ <i>Needed to Date: \$599,288 / Received to Date: \$567,042</i>	
\$1,174	MVL ~ <i>Received to Date: \$38,655</i>	\$170 K-12 Education Assistance
\$1,102	Missions ~ <i>Received to Date: \$58,240</i>	\$80 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$100	Ministerial Education Endowment Fund	\$20 LWMS

St. John's Administrative Assistant Job Opening ~

Thursday Morning Bible Class ~ will begin at 10 am (not 10:30 am). Note the time change!

Join the Handbell Choir ~ for a fun and unique fellowship opportunity. You don't need to be able to read music. The notes are color-coded for all levels of experience. Any interested MLC bell ringers can play and earn IFE hours (category A). Come join the fun. For more information, contact Becky Berg at rberg@mvlhs.org or text 989-280-7674.



Women of St. John's ~ Pastor Joel Gaertner, Director for WELS Special Ministries will be our guest speaker about Freedom for the Captives (www.freedomforcaptives.com). Freedom for the Captives is dedicated to equipping the Body of Christ to protect children and empower abuse survivors. We will meet in the church basement at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 3. Everyone is welcome to join us for the presentation. The ladies will have a brief business meeting following the presentation.

Cancer Journey Group ~ St. John's Cancer Journey Group will meet on Sunday, September 8 at 3 pm in the lower-level fellowship area. Anyone whose life has been touched by cancer is encouraged to attend, whether they themselves have had a cancer diagnosis at any time in their life, are an adult family member of someone who has had a cancer diagnosis, or are supportive friends. If you know of someone who is not a St. John's member but might be interested in attending, invite and come with them! Our purpose is to receive encouragement from God's Word and each other. Snacks will be provided. Retired Christian counselor Dan Loe will lead a short discussion about organizing personal information and preferences for others to use when we are not able to speak for ourselves.

Cards of Caring ~ is a group that gathers six Saturdays a year to make cards to remember our homebound and thinking-of-you members, our Befriend a Mission LWMS families, and others, as needed. This year we will meet on September 14, October 12 and November 9 from about 9 am until noon at 403 N. Minnesota St. We are looking for more volunteers to assist and make cards using recycled cards and stamp sets plus other prep work. No talents are needed and all materials are provided. We also welcome MLC students. Come as your schedule allows. A time for fellowship and service to the Lord. Contact Lois Willems at 507-676-1230 with questions.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Send-Off at St. Paul's School ~ Join us for Summer Send-off on Saturday, September 7 from 5 - 7 pm! John and Paul Ministries will say goodbye to summer with complimentary food, bounce houses, games, outdoor worship, and the best seats on the school grounds for the HermannFest fireworks! See you then and bring a friend! Many helpful hands and friendly faces are needed to run an outreach event! Please sign up at johnandpaulministries.com to volunteer! Questions? Contact Beth Scharf at scharfbm@mlc-wels.edu.

Help Needed ~ Help is needed on Tuesday, September 10 and Thursday, September 12, from 1:30 - 3 pm to prepare our 60 baptism blankets by cutting fringes for an upcoming St. Paul's Lutheran School crew event. Meet in the St. Paul's School cafeteria. Contact Sue Schone at sschone@splnewulm.org with questions.

Men of His Word Conference ~ The 9th annual Men of His Word Conference (Theme: Built to SERVE) will be held at the Mayo Civic Center in downtown Rochester, MN on Saturday, October 26, 2024. Please go online at www.menofhisword.org to register and get details about schedule, breakout sessions, keynote speaker, cost, etc. Please join us for a day of worship, praise and fellowship in God's Word!

You Know a Combat Veteran ~ You know a combat veteran in your family or even a member here that has been impacted by their deployments. They may wrestle with what they did or saw and feel like no one else understands. They may doubt the forgiveness and peace God offers them. They are invited to join fellow WELS and ELS veterans for a weekend spent learning that God is invested in their spiritual and mental health. LMSG is hosting their annual spiritual retreat November 14-17, at Camp Shiloh, Texas entitled Building Bridges, A Spiritual Retreat for Battle Buddies. Attendees are encouraged to come with their "battle buddy" - a trusted friend, spouse, or caregiver, but may come on their own and meet a future battle buddy there. Registration ends October 1st. Assistance with travel is available. Retreat details and registration information can be found at www.lutheranmilitary.org. Invite the person you know today.

More Than the Score ~ is an exciting new offering on the MLC campus. Join us on home football game days to hear from MLC professors on various topics. The lectures start at 11 am in the MLC Cafeteria Conference Center. The first lecture will be on September 7, "Where Terror Never Rests," by Prof. Paul Koelpin. Join us to explore the origins of the bitter struggle between Israelis and Palestinians. The lecture is free, but you must register since seating is limited. To register for this and other lectures, scan the QR code, visit bit.ly/MLCMoreThanScore or email alumni@mlc-wels.edu.



About the Cover ~ Someone's last words from their deathbed are often very memorable to the loved ones they leave behind. In Moses' last words spoken before his death right before the Israelites would enter the Promised Land, he encouraged them to cling to the Word of God. "Listen... Do not add... Do not take away... Keep them... Do them... Give heed... Do not forget... Do not depart from... Make them known..." Could Moses stress the importance of clinging to the Word any more strongly?! Unfortunately, all too often we neglect or ignore God's Word. Thank God for Jesus who won forgiveness for us. Now, let's listen to God in his Word, believe his promise of forgiveness, and live for him in thanks by sharing his Word with others.