



Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost • October 14 / 15, 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.

Prayer before worship: Heavenly Father, overcome the stubborn foolishness of our natural hearts by sending your Spirit day after day to win our hearts again and again to delight that we are invited to your Son's eternal wedding feast. May your gospel invitation heard this day fill our hearts with faith and joy at your grace to us. And then, Lord, use us all, along with all your public ministers, to flood our world with your gracious invitation so that your eternal banquet will be full as you desire. Amen.

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

OPENING HYMN *Come, Thou Almighty King* **CW921**

CONFESSION p. 155

FIRST LESSON **Isaiah 25:6–9**

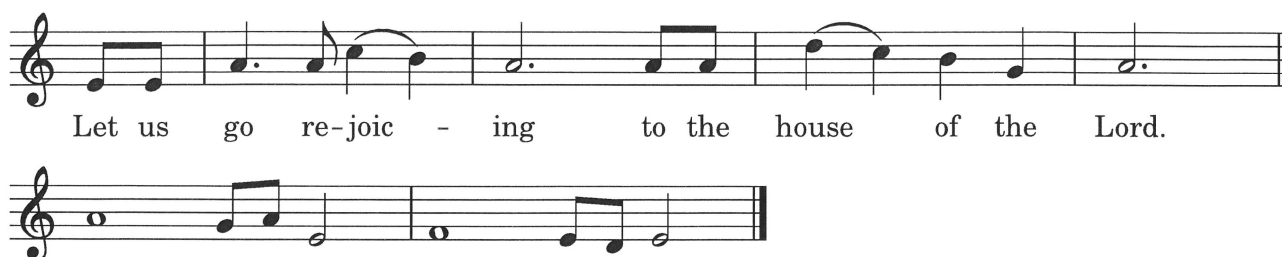
⁶On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁷On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

⁹In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY *Psalm 84E*



How lovely is your / dwelling place,

Lord Al- / mighty!

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts / of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh cry out for the / living God.

Blessed are those who dwell / in your house;

they are ever / praising you. Refrain

Better is one day / in your courts
 than a thousand / elsewhere;
 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house / of my God
 than dwell in the tents of the / wicked.
 Lord Al- / mighty,
 blessed is the one who / trusts in you.
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 1:16-17

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will pre - pare

a feast of rich food for all peo - ples. *Refrain*

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1–14

¹Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴“Then he sent some more servants and said, “Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.”



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship NO Sunday School or Bible Class
	2 & 5 pm	VR Camp
	7 pm	MVL Delegate Meeting
Mon	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wed	10 am	Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
Thu	10:30 am	Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	7 pm	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Sat	6:30 pm	Worship with Communion

† Upcoming Services †

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 22	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship with Communion
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Book of Job
	1 & 5 pm	VR Camp
Oct 24	7 pm	Voters' Meeting
Oct 25	10 am	Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Oct 26	10:30 am	Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	7 pm	The I AM Statements of Jesus
Oct 27	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
	5:30 pm	Harvest in the Halls at St. Paul's School
Oct 28	6:30 pm	Worship
Oct 29	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Book of Job
	11 am	Gr. 1-4 sing
	1 pm	VR Camp
	3 pm	Joint Reformation Service at MLC
	5 pm	VR Camp

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 514.

Martin Luther College Choir ~ We thank the MLC choir who will be edifying our 10:30 am service this Sunday, October 15.

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.

*Communion will not be offered this weekend, but instead will be distributed October 20/21.

Sanctuary Screens ~ It was recommended to the voters and passed at the July 25th Voter's meeting to purchase and install screens on the two sides of the sanctuary. Funds had already been raised for this technology during the past several years. Surveys had been taken showing a desire to install for a variety of reasons including helping parents of small children, visitors, and new member prospects to follow along during the services. The screens, brackets, and other needed equipment were purchased this past week and should arrive during the coming week. The Tech Committee and other volunteers will coordinate the installation of the equipment as soon as feasible. Members will soon see two 85" screens, one on each side in front of the chancel area. Although initially they may be quite noticeable, we hope that over time they will blend into the beautiful atmosphere of our sanctuary and be useful in worship to those who attend. Plans are that volunteers can easily advance slides during worship. If you would be interested in advancing slides for services, please contact Staff Minister, Jim Dretske at sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com or fill out an interest survey online at <https://bit.ly/SJScreenSurvey>.

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, 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.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

The History of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary: Our Great Heritage - Worker Training Schools Series led by Prof. Em. John Brenner on Sunday, October 15 at 3 pm. This presentation will highlight the history of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. The history of our synod is intimately bound up with the seminary. We will look at some of the major events and developments in the history of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary as framed by the history of the synod with an emphasis on what has changed and what has remained the same. Immediately following this presentation, the WELS Historical Institute will hold its annual meeting. For more information visit welshistoricalinstitute.org.

MVL Fall Play ~ Ahoy, mateys! MVL's drama department is at it again! This fall's kooky comedy, *Larceny and Old Lace* is sure to make you laugh as you watch loveable characters try to solve the mystery of the multiplying loot. From casinos to the FBI, this show has it all. Bring the whole family to the play which is running at State Street Theater (1 N. State Street, New Ulm) from October 27th - 29th (Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday at 2 pm). Tickets will be sold at the door. We can't wait to see you there!

Joint Reformation Service at MLC ~ on Sunday, October 29 at 3 pm in the Chapel of the Christ, 1995 Luther Court. Martin Luther wrote, "The gift of language combined with the gift of song was only given to man to let him know that he should praise God with both word and music." In 1523, Luther began writing hymns for congregational singing. One of the first hymns he wrote is "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice." Join us as the congregations of the Mankato Conference and River Valley Conference celebrate the Reformation at the Joint Reformation Service.

MLC Fall Musical ~ MLC presents *Hello, Dolly!* on November 3-5 (Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday at 2 pm). This musical adaptation of Thornton Wilder's hit play *The Matchmaker* bursts with humor, romance, energetic dance, and some of the greatest songs in musical theatre history. The romantic and comic exploits of Dolly Gallagher-Levi, turn-of-the-century matchmaker and "woman who arranges things," are certain to thrill and entertain you. Be sure to join us for this delightful musical comedy!

MVL Wreath Sales ~ MVL will again be selling wreaths, swags, live garland, and spruce pots to help bring the sights and scents of Christmas to your home or business! Look for friendly MVL students at your church to help you place your order. Or if you prefer, go to the MVL website and place your order online. Order deadline is Sunday, November 12, and we hope to deliver most products to your church by Thanksgiving. Thank you for your support! May God bless your upcoming celebrations!

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.

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

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About the Cover ~ On this 20th Sunday after Pentecost, in powerful imagery, the first reading from Isaiah 25 and the Gospel from Matthew 22 picture God's eagerness to save us as an invitation to enjoy (already now through faith) the eternal wedding feast of his Son. All has been prepared for us in his grace that is ours through the Bridegroom (Jesus) himself. We see the gracious eagerness of God to include us in his banquet underscored in the Gospel as God sends out his servants again and again to issue this invitation throughout the millennia of both Old Testament and New Testament down to today. God works through his servants' repeated invitations to overcome the insane and stubborn foolishness of our natural sinful hearts so that we, and many more with us, might fill the eternal wedding banquet. Then, in our second reading from Romans 1, Paul summarizes in plain language all which this is picturing: the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of all who are won to faith in Jesus, both Jew and Gentile.