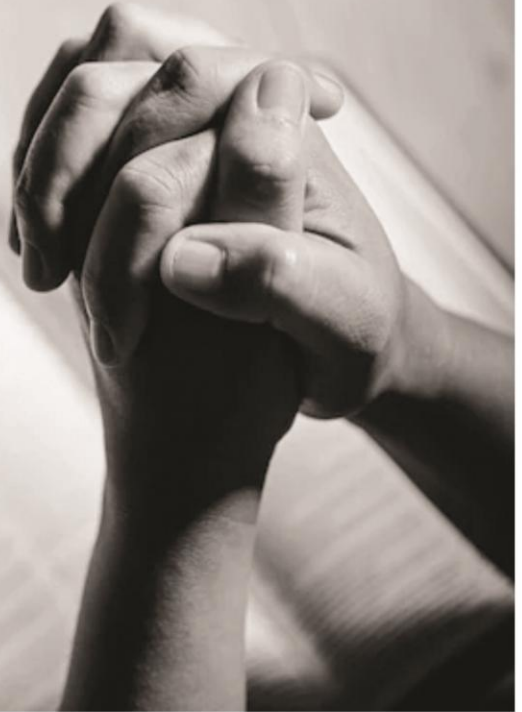


PRAY
CHRISTIAN,
PRAY.



Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
OCTOBER 18 / 19, 2025

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

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 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
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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.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18/19, 2025

To prepare for the Lord's Supper, the questions for examination are on pg. 295 in the front of the hymnal.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Almighty God, we come before you in prayer, knowing that you commanded us to pray, that you promise to answer our prayers, and that you will give us the BEST answer to our prayers according to your gracious will. Therefore we pray that you pardon our sins, strengthen our faith, encourage us to walk closer to you each day, and embolden us to share your saving gospel with wisdom and zeal. We pray these things in Jesus' name, asking that your will be done. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE **Service Setting 2** pg. 172

OPENING HYMN *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* CW 721

Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS pg. 172

LORD HAVE MERCY pg. 174

GLORY TO GOD pg. 176

PRAYER OF THE DAY pg. 178

Be seated

FIRST READING Genesis 32:22-30

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left

alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains* Psalm 121

SECOND READING

1 John 5:13-15

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Peter 5:7



Refrain



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

Tone



Refrain

Cast all your anxie - ty on him because he cares for you.

GOSPEL

Luke 18:1-8

¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

⁴ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’ ”

⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *When in the Hour of Utmost Need* CW 723

SERMON Keep Praying Luke 18:1-8

Stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

pg. 182

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT

pg. 183

Please see announcements for our communion practice.

Stand

LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 185

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CW 661

Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord

PRAYER AND BLESSING

pg. 187

PREACHER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGANIST

Jacob Behnken

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School https://bit.ly/SJBibleClassonline
Tuesday	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	6 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class https://bit.ly/SJBibleClassonline
Saturday, Oct 25	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Oct 26	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
Tuesday, Oct 28	7 pm	Voters' Meeting
Wednesday, Oct 29	6 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, Oct 30	10 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 410.

Fruits of Faith:

\$18,347 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$711,916 / YTD: \$670,400 \$1,790 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$79,695 (2025 Goal: \$87,000) \$1,390 MVL ~ YTD: \$49,711 (2025 Goal: \$57,000) \$215 Building Fund \$50 St. Paul's School Building Fund \$29 Food and Fellowship \$120 K-12 Education Assistance
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Close Communion ~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.

Iris Box Project ~ October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, a time to acknowledge and support families who have experienced the loss of a pregnancy or infant. The Iris Box Project is a continuing ministry at St. John's that seeks to comfort grieving families. 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. 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/text or email listed below. Yarn and specifications will be provided to you. If you are willing to donate your time by assembling boxes or other tasks, also please contact Kelly. Please contact Kelly Diersen (507-766-9085) or Sarah Strackbein (612-361-0425) or email irisboxproject@gmail.com if you have any questions.

St. John's Job Opening ~ Due to an upcoming retirement, St. John's is seeking applicants to fill the position of bookkeeper. This is a part-time position (10-15 hrs/week) that will begin on January 5, 2026. We are looking for a person who has previous experience in accounting or bookkeeping. If you know of someone who may be interested, please pick up a job description from the church office.

Wish List Item: Junior Choir Music Folders ~ The St. John's Junior Choir is made up of St. John's students in fifth through eighth grade who attend St. Paul's Lutheran School. We use a variety of anthems and hymn arrangements throughout the year to share God's word in song about once a month. The Junior Choir currently uses some inexpensive folders to hold sheet music as we are practicing it in school. Some sturdier folders would do a better job of preserving our music for years to come. If you are so inclined, please consider giving toward the purchase of new folders for our choir. Thank you! - Emily Stoering, St. John's Junior Choir Director

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

MVL Part time Job Opening ~ Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School is looking for an individual willing to serve as part time Study Hall Supervisor, beginning October 20 for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year. The time frame would be from approximately 10:10 – 12:30 each day. Individuals interested should contact MVL Principal Tim Plath at tplath@mvlhs.org.

Custodial Position Needed ~ Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School has an immediate opening for a full-time custodian. For more information, please contact Ken Opitz at kopitz@mvlhs.org or 507-354-6851.

MLC Job Openings ~ Martin Luther College is accepting applications for a full-time Dormitory Custodian, a regular part-time Early Childhood Learning Center Assistant Teacher, and part-time Early Childhood Learning Center Substitute Teachers. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Interested in traveling with a group of like-minded believers? The OWLS (WELS Seniors) is partnering with Father's World Tours to offer a New Year's (Dec 31-Jan 13) trip to sunny Southern California (Rose Parade, Reagan Library, San Diego, Palm Springs, Joshua Tree NP) that also includes a 7-night Princess cruise to the Mexican Riviera. All tours involve daily devotions and WELS weekend worship. The tour is open to W/ELS members of all ages. Registration closes on October 1 (earlier if all spots are sold). Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact us (steve@fathersworldtours.com, 507-217-1731) to learn more.

Youth Group at the Pinball Place ~ Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to a youth group gathering at the Pinball Place (827 N Broadway St) from 6:30-8:00 pm on Sunday, October 26th. If you would like to attend, please fill out this form: forms.gle/WNZZ5WDaXhoKhRtx5. There will be a \$5 fee to help with the cost. Contact Staff Minister Kuschel with any questions.

Wreath Sales ~ Tis the season!... MVL will again be selling wreaths, swags, crosses, and live garland 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 starting October 26th. Or if you prefer, go to the MVL website and place your order online. Order deadline is Sunday, November 16th, and we hope to deliver most products to your church by Thanksgiving weekend. This year's proceeds are designated to help outfit a workshop space for our fine arts backstage area. Thank you for your support!

MVL Drama presents ~ On a dark and stormy night, six quirky guests are invited to a mysterious mansion. But when their host turns up dead, the evening takes a deadly (and delightfully funny) turn. With secret identities, outrageous alibis, and more red herrings than you can shake a candlestick at, everyone's a suspect and nothing is quite what it seems. Who did it? Where? With what? Find out as MVL Drama brings the classic board game *Clue* to life on stage this fall! Packed with mystery, mischief, and plenty of laughs, this whodunit will keep you guessing (and giggling) until the final reveal. Show times are Friday, October 31st at 7 pm, Saturday, November 1st at 7 pm, and Sunday, November 2nd at 2 pm. All performances will be held in the Fine Arts Center at MVL Don't wait until the last *Clue*—gather your friends, follow the evidence, and join us for an evening of side-splitting suspense!

Veterans Honored ~ The public is invited to our annual Veterans' Day Recognition Program on November 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the fieldhouse. A complete breakfast specifically for veterans and their personal guests will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the commons. If you or a veteran you know would like to come, please RSVP at mvl.org, sallee@mvlhs.org, or 507-354-6851.

Spirit of MVL ~ You are invited to join MVL in a night of fellowship supporting Christian education as we recognize and celebrate our Spirit of MVL award winners: Greg, Galen, & Grant Holzhueter, Kyle Smith, and Gary Hulke. The gala will be held on November 22nd, at 5 p.m. at The Venue in Mankato. The night includes a social hour, dinner, an award program, a live auction, and the Afterglow. Tickets are for sale on the MVL website, mvl.org. You can also contact Sarah Allee with any questions at sallee@mvlhs.org. RSVPs are due by November 7th.

About the Cover ~ We can sometimes become cynical when we pray and wonder whether God is going to give us the best answer to our prayers or maybe something substandard. But we need to remember that Jesus tells us to be persistent when we pray. He also reminds us that if our child asked for an egg or a fish or a piece of bread, we would not try to give them a scorpion or a snake or a stone, that is, something that could harm them or do them no good at all. We love our children and want to give them the best we have for them. Jesus assures us that in a much greater way and with deeper love than a mother or father could ever have for their own children, God is always going to give us the very best answer to our prayers; not just a good answer, but the very best answer, so that it may benefit us most.