

DO UNTO OTHERS
AS YOU WOULD
HAVE THEM
DO UNTO
YOU.

LUKE 6:31

THE GOLDEN RULE

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 22 / 23, 2025

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

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

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
Email: stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

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

 **YouTube**
bit.ly/SJyoutube

 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
507-354-6744

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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY

February 22/23, 2025

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Lord, teach us to be like you: showing love, kindness, mercy, and patience toward others. Bless us with a gentle attitude that demonstrates to others the love you have for all people. Give us a spirit of wisdom to know best how to witness for your holy name that others may come to know you as their Lord and Savior. We pray these things in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Service Setting 4

OPENING HYMN

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

CW 733

- 1 “Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
- 2 How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?
- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
how small are others’ debts to us, how great our debt to you!
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

**We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

Have mercy on us, Lord!

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - be - ing



of the Church of God, and for the un - i - ty of all,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their

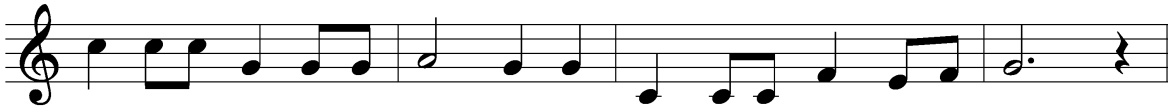


wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com-fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



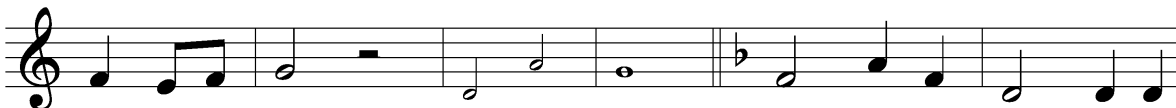
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



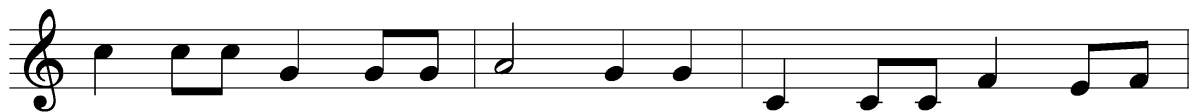
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



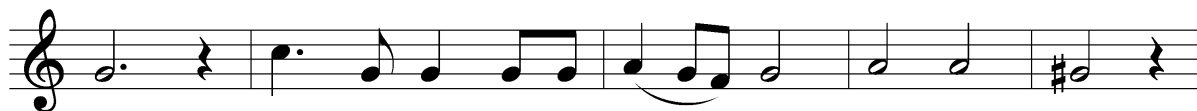
Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on



earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Refrain: We preach Christ crucified, he died for me. God sacrificed himself for my eternity. He paid the cost of my sin-filled life. His resurrection is my victory!

The message of a cross of wood saving souls from death is not understood without faith in Christ and his saving Word bringing life from what was dead. Refrain

What looks like tool of torture and death is an instrument of love and grace. Jesus gave himself for me willingly to crush the pow'r of sin. Refrain

Be seated

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 45:3–15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God

has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

¹² "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

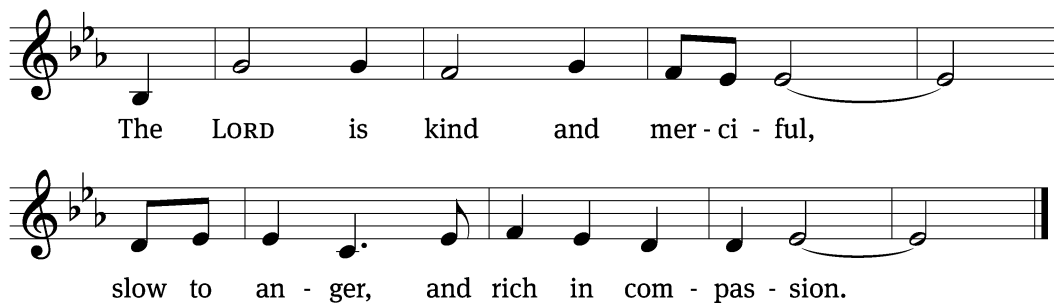
¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *The LORD Is Kind and Merciful* Psalm 103

Refrain



The LORD is kind and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and rich in com - pas - sion.

Tone



Praise the LORD, / my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his / holy name—
who forgives / all your sins
and heals all your dis- / eases,
who redeems your life / from the pit
and crowns you with love and com- / passion,
who satisfies your desires / with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the / eagle's. *Refrain*

The LORD is compassionate and / gracious,
slow to anger, abound- / ing in love.
He does not treat us as our / sins deserve
or repay us according to our in- / iquities.
For as high as the heavens are a- / bove the earth,
so great is his love for those who / fear him;
as far as the east is / from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions / from us.

**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 12:14–21

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5:44,45

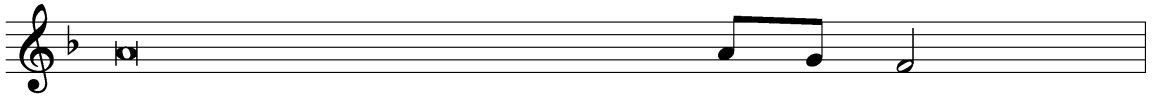


Refrain

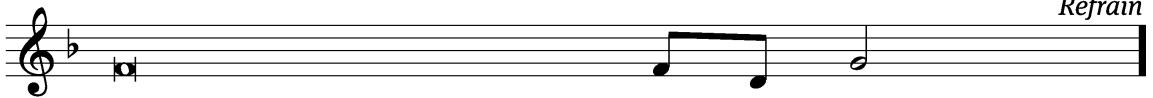


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Love your enemies and pray for those who perse - cute you,



that you may be children of your Father in heav - en.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Luke 6:27–38

²⁷ “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your

enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

CW 729

- 1 Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrongs and help our need.
- 2 Bind us all as one together in your Church’s sacred fold,
weak and healthy, poor and wealthy, sad and joyful, young and old.
Is there want or pain or sorrow? Make us all the burden share.
Are there spirits crushed and broken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their
care.

3 As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,
by your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,
grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth your will be done.

SERMON

In Christ There is Forgiveness

Luke 6:27-38

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition]*. Remember those who

suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [*especially . . . here name the person*]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.
Amen.

OFFERING

HANDBELLS *The King Of Love My Shepherd Is* arr. Cathy Molkebust
8, 9:30 am

HYMN *This Is My Will* CW 728

- 1 This is my will, my one command, that love should dwell among you all.
 This is my will, that you should love as I have shown that I love you.
- 2 No greater love can be than this: To choose to die to save one's friends.
 You are my friends if you obey what I command that you should do.
- 3 I call you now no longer slaves; no slave knows all his master does.
 I call you friends, for all I hear my Father say you hear from me.

- 4 You chose not me, but I chose you, that you should go and bear much fruit. I chose you out that you in me should bear much fruit that will abide.
- 5 All that you ask my Father dear for my name's sake you shall receive. This is my will, my one command, that love should dwell in each, in all.

PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us be your Holy Spirit to keep your Word pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill* CW 697

- 1 May we your precepts, Lord, fulfill and do on earth our Father's will
 as angels do above; still walk in Christ, the living way,
 with all your children, and obey the law of Christian love.

- 2 So may we join your name to bless, your grace adore, your pow'r
 confess,
 to flee from sin and strife. One is our calling, one our name,
 the end of all our hopes the same: a glorious crown of life.

- 3 Spirit of life, of love, and peace, unite our hearts, our joy increase,
 your gracious help supply. To each of us the blessing give
 in Christian fellowship to live, in joyful hope to die.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| PREACHER | Pastor Jeff Bovee |
| PRESIDING MINISTER | Pastor Rob Guenther |
| ORGAN | Becky Berg |
| JR. CHOIR | Emily Stoering |
| HANDBELLS | Becky Berg |

MLC LECTORS ~ Throughout the year, St. John's asks men who are studying for the pastoral ministry to read for a service. We are in a privileged position to see our Lord's answer to our prayers for future called workers.

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 6:30 pm | Stephen Wietzke | Crown of Life, Pueblo, CO |
| 8 am | Isaiah Ruddat | Immanuel, Shirley, WI |
| 9:30 am | Ben Schoch | Zion Lutheran, Chesaning, MI |
| 11 am | Joshua Kallies | Grace Lutheran, Glendale, AZ |

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



Acknowledgments

Setting Four 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: Psalms |
| Wednesday | 3:30 pm | Public and Homeschool Catechism |
| | 6 pm | Handbells |
| | 6:30 pm | Bible Information Class |
| | 7 pm | Choir |
| Thursday | 10 am | Bible Class: Proverbs |
| | 7 pm | Bible Class: Vices and Virtues |
| Friday | 9:30 am | Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues |
| Saturday | 6:30 pm | Worship |
| Sunday, Mar. 2 | 12 am | Daylight Savings |
| | 8, 9:30, 11 am | Worship |
| | 9:30 am | Bible Class |
| Monday, Mar. 3 | 6:30 pm | Elders Meeting |
| Tuesday, Mar. 4 | 7 pm | Women of St. John's |
| Wednesday, Mar. 5 | 11 am | Ash Wednesday Service |
| | 3:30 pm | Homeschool & Public School Catechism |
| | 4, 6:30 pm | Ash Wednesday Service |
| | 6 pm | Handbells |
| | 7:15 pm | Choir |
| Thursday, Mar. 6 | 10 am | Bible Class: Proverbs |

Friday, Mar. 7

7 pm Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
9:30 am Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 587 with 405 receiving the Lord's Supper.

Fruits of Faith:

\$19,114 Home Operations ~ BTD: \$124,585 / YTD received: \$131,512
\$2,123 WELS Missions ~ RTD: \$11,538 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)
\$1,287 MVL ~ RTD: \$7,627 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)
\$112 Building Fund
\$188 K-12 Education Assistance
\$80 LWMS
\$151 Food and Fellowship
\$205 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$60 St. Paul's School
\$100 Benevolence Fund
\$75 Miscellaneous
\$30 Altar and Flowers
\$53 Women of St. John's
\$ 60 Martin Luther College

Lenten Fellowship Meals ~ The donation lists for the Lenten Fellowship Meals have been sent out by email. If you didn't receive the email please check your spam folder or contact the church office to be added to the list: 507-354-6744. If you don't have an email or computer you are welcome to donate, either time and/or food/money, by contacting any of the women listed: Donna Dose: 507-441-1893; Denise Karstens: 507-217-9550; Karen Ladner: 612-269-6321; or Mary Thom: 507-217-6884. Thank you!

Slide Advance Assistants Needed ~ If you can click a remote, you are qualified to assist with advancing slides during services, especially if you already are in the habit of watching the slides during the services. If you have interest in assisting in this way, please send me an email at sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com to get on a list of people who receive notices when there is a need to fill a service for the coming weekend. A link to an Online Slide Advance Sign-up sheet will be sent which will allow you to fill in your name for services which would work for you. Easy! Thanks!

Printed Church Directories - The pew copies are getting worn and we have now had quite a few new members join St. John's recently, as well as have had members move away or have babies ;) So it would be good to update pictures, phone numbers, addresses, birthdays, anniversaries for all of our current members and their families. Please send updates to sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com You can also ask me or some other member to take your picture in the New Narthex and send the file with any changed information for your family. I am usually available between services. Let's get this done in February so that I can print New Pew Copies early in March. Thanks!

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Host families needed ~ Martin Luther College is excited to host the WELS National Band Fest on March 7-9, 2025! The festival band is made up of band students from our WELS high schools across the nation. We are seeking welcoming local families to house those who are traveling distances to be here. Please contact Beth Scharf at events@mlc-wels.edu if you are willing to host or scan the QR code to complete the hosting form. Thank you!



Bingo Night ~ The MLC Ladies' Auxiliary is sponsoring their annual Bingo Night on Wednesday, Feb. 26. This is one of the year's highlights for MLC students when they can have a night of fun and win great prizes of quilts,

gift cards, and baked treats! We are looking for donations of blankets & quilts, cash to purchase the gift cards, and treats for alternate prizes during the evening. Please consider this opportunity to partner with the Auxiliary for this night of fun encouragement! Drop off donations at the MLC reception desk by February 18 or mail them to 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm, MN 56073. On behalf of our future pastors, staff ministers, and teachers, thank you!

Treasure Haus ~ The Treasure Haus Board of Directors announces the 2025 annual meeting. This annual meeting will be special as it will commemorate the 40th anniversary of support for Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School and contributions to many other ministry support groups. Members of the MVL Congregational Association and their numerous volunteers are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at MVL on March 16, 2025 beginning at 2:00pm. Those planning to attend must notify the planning committee by 1. signing up at the Treasure Haus, 2. emailing manager@treasurehaus.org 3. or calling the Treasure Haus 507-354-6108. All reservations must be received by February 15, 2025. There will be musical entertainment by MVL students, a trivia quiz game on our history, displays of historical memorability, and a tour of the new MVL addition. Join us to recognize God's blessings as we continue "serving one another in love."

LWMS Rally ~ All are invited to attend the LWMS rally on April 5 at Friedens Lutheran Church in New Prague, MN. The rally begins with a coffee fellowship at 8:00AM, and the speaker of the day is Pastor Larry Schlomer- World Mission board Chairman. Please RSVP to Carrie Schaefer carriehieb@yahoo.com.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Interested in traveling with other members of our WELS faith family where daily devotion and Christian fellowship are integral parts of the itinerary? The OWLS (WELS Seniors group) is partnering with *Father's World Tours* to offer two upcoming trips, and

WELS members of all ages are eligible to come along. Nature enthusiasts, spend some time with MLC Professor Emeritus Jim Pope in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. The May 10-16 trip offers convenient starting points (MSP, New Ulm, or Sioux Falls) and affordable pre/post-tour (May 9 or 16) hotel opportunities. History lovers, join MLC professors Pete Baganz, Paul Koelpin, and Keith Wessel for a bucket list June 8-25 trip to London, Normandy, and Paris. Group flights are available from Chicago or Minneapolis. Registration closes March 14. Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact Steve Balza (steve@fathersworldtours.com or 507-217-1731) for full details.

MLC Job Openings ~ Martin Luther College is accepting applications for a full-time Human Resources Generalist, a part-time Bookstore Assistant, and a part-time Men's Assistant Soccer Coach.

MLC Saxophone and Voice Recital - Join MLC senior Joe Panning as he presents "Saxophobia: a Saxophone and Voice Recital" on March 1st at 3 pm in the Chapel of the Christ. This eclectic program will keep you on your toes, featuring composers such as Claude T. Smith, Rudy Wiedoeft, J.S. Bach, Arthur Sullivan, and more!

About the Cover ~ The love of Jesus was expressed by him in the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Jesus' love is selfless. He gave himself to live and die for the sins of all people, for all time. As redeemed children of God who have been born again through faith in him, he would have us emulate his example in our lives so that by our good deeds others may be drawn toward him and in the end glorify our Father in heaven.

