

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."



This is the Word of the Lord

The Gospel of Matthew: Chapter Five, Verses Seventeen and Eighteen

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
February 15 / 16, 2020

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: stjohsnewulm@gmail.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.

Worship Notes
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 15/16, 2020

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, we now come to your house and sit before your feet to hear your Word. Cause it to fill our hearts that we may rejoice in what you have done for us to save us. May it fill our minds that we might be compelled to live for you with zeal. May it fill our minds that we may meditate on all the blessings you have given us so that we may rejoice in you. May it fill our lives so that we are encouraged to serve you and tell others what you have done for them also. Make us like cities set on a hill and lamps that shine in a dark place which guide others to you. May we always be built up by your Word to do so. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Order of Service: *Service of Word and Sacrament* page 26

OPENING HYMN

God Has Spoken by His Prophets

CW281

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 58:5-9a

Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie

the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter -- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and

your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: "Here am I."

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 111

CW p. 106

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except

Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a

demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

GENERAL VERSE

p. 30

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your

light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who

breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

HYMN of the DAY

Thy Strong Word

CW280

SERMON

Matthew 5:13-20

GOD HAS SPOKEN

1. HIS WORD DEMANDS A RIGHTEOUS LIFE FROM US
2. HIS WORD IS ALWAYS RIGHTEOUS AND TRUE
3. HIS WORD REVEALS HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPUTED TO US

NICENE CREED

p. 31

OFFERING

PRAYERS and LORD'S PRAYER

p. 32

THE SACRAMENT

p. 33

To our worship guests seeking an altar at which to commune: Since the Lord's Supper is an expression of outward unity in the faith as well as inner union with Christ, we ask that those who are not communicant members of our fellowship please schedule a meeting with one of the pastors before coming to the Lord's Table. We ask this in loving obedience to the Scriptures and not in judgment of anyone's faith, sincerity, or standing before God.

DISTRIBUTION

Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening

CW283

HYMNS

The Law of God Is Good and Wise

CW287

† † †

PREACHER

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Rob Guenther

ORGANISTS

Saturday: Jeneane Thiesfeldt

Sunday: Craig Hirschmann

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: St. John's Mission Statement
	3 pm	MLC Wind Symphony Concert
	4:45 pm	Basement Reserved
	6 pm	MVL Pre Delegate Meeting
	7 pm	MVL Delegate Meeting at MVL
Mon	10:30 am	Stewardship Meeting
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Tue	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wed	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7 pm	Mixed Choir
Thu	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: Colossians
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: 2 Kings
Fri	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God Part 2"
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: I Apologize
	7:30 pm	MLC Play: <i>The Mouse the Roared</i>
Sat	7:30 pm	MLC Play: <i>The Mouse that Roared</i>

† **Upcoming Services** †

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 23	8 am	Jr. Choir sings
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: St. John's Mission Statement
	2 pm	Youth Group at New Ulm Civic Center
	2 pm	MLC Play: <i>The Mouse that Roared</i>
Feb 24	6 pm	Trustees Meeting
Feb 25	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Feb 26	11 am, 4 and 6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Services
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	5:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7:15 pm	Mixed Choir
Feb 27	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: Colossians
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: 2 Kings
Feb 28	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God Part 2"
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: I Apologize
Mar 1	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: St. John's Mission Statement
	10 am	MVL Pork Chop Dinner
	1:30 pm	MVL Band Concert
Mar 2	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Mar 3	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting

The full church calendar can be found at www.stjohnsnewulm.com

ST. JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 183.

Fruits of faith given:

\$24,143	Home Operations ~ \$15,346 is our weekly need		
\$1,422	MVL ~ \$1,163 is our weekly need	\$230	K-12 Education Assistance
\$2,141	Missions ~ \$1,714 is our weekly need	\$55	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$1,385	Building Fund ~ \$1,397 is our weekly need	\$26	Food & Fellowship
\$115	LWMS	\$10	Undesignated Memorials

Altar Flowers ~ have been given by Claus Sieh in commemorative memory of Norma's 90th birthday on Sunday, February 9th.

2019 Contribution Statements ~ The final 2019 contribution statements are available and can be found in your church bulletin box. Please pick yours up today.

Qualified Contribution Distribution ~ If you plan to make a Qualified Contribution Distribution from a retirement account, please notify Wendy Lambrecht, Bookkeeper, or Mike Thom, Financial Secretary, so that when the check arrives we know who initiated the contribution and can properly acknowledge it. Thank you.

Youth Group ~ In February, the youth group is invited to Open Skate at The New Ulm Civic Center (1212 N. Franklin St.) on Sunday, February 23 from 2 - 3:30 pm. At 3:30, we'll go upstairs to the meeting room for a devotion and snacks until 4:30 pm. The cost is \$4.75 for open skate and \$2.25 to rent skates. Bring a friend and a snack to share! Also, check out the Upcoming Events on the Youth Board!

Women of St. John's ~ The Tuesday, March 3rd meeting night is "Make an Easter Craft." Please sign up on the sheet in the new narthex so we know how many stations to set up. Also, bring a scissors to cut paper.

Cancer Journey Fellowship ~ Sunday, March 8, 4 - 5:30 pm. Have you or someone in your immediate family experienced a cancer diagnosis at any time? Maybe it was yourself, your spouse, a child, or a parent. It might be a recent diagnosis, or the person may be undergoing treatment, be in post-treatment, or be in remission. Come to this opportunity for Scripture-based encouragement and conversation with others. We will meet in the lower level fellowship area. Light refreshments will be provided.

Cards of Caring ~ The St. John's Cards of Caring volunteers will meet Saturday, March 14, to make Easter cards for our homebound and thinking of you members and Befriend a Mission families. You are welcome between the hours of 9 am and noon at 403 N. Minnesota St. (enter on 4th North). Besides fellowship, this is a way for volunteers to serve the Lord. Contact Lois Willems at 507-676-1230 with questions.

Handbell Choir ~ If you'd like to be a part of something musical but you have limited vocal ability, then the new Handbell Choir is for you! If you're not good at reading notes or rhythm, I can teach you! Practices will be in the church basement at 6-7 pm on Wednesday. I need 11-17 Confirmed members. Please indicate your willingness to join the Handbell Choir by email to Becky Berg: rberg@mvlhs.org. As soon as we have enough people, we will begin practices.

St. John's Coffee Mugs ~ Newly ordered St. John's coffee mugs are used by our prospective member visitation team as a gift to help our new friends remember our local congregation. Perhaps you wish you had your own St. John's mug to help you remember to pray for our ministry during your morning java. Your wish has been granted! Stop by the display table in the narthex to pick up one of these stylish mugs for only \$5 each! Leave your payment, cash or check to St John's, in the box.

2020 Contribution Envelopes ~ The 2020 offering envelopes can be found in alphabetical order on the table in the new narthex. If you have not done so already, please pick up yours today.

Contributions for St. Paul's School Building Fund ~ Please make out checks to "St. John's Lutheran Church" and indicate "St Paul's School Building Fund" on your offering envelope. This will help us better track our congregation's support of the building project. These amounts will be reflected on your St. John's contribution statement. Thank You!

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELS Youth Rally and Mission Trips ~ WELS Youth Rally in Knoxville, Tennessee will be held on June 23-26. St. Paul's Church will be sponsoring a group to attend this summer. Contact St. Paul's Staff Minister Kuschel for more details at kkuschel@splnewulm.org.

As of now, the summer mission trips are:

Westminster, CO: July 18-24: Soccer Camp

San Antonio, TX: July 31-August 9: Basketball Camp

Red Deer, Alberta, Canada: July 31-August 10: Soccer Camp

Mahahual, Mexico: July 11-18: English/Bible Camp (*for those 16+ years old with Spanish knowledge*)

MVL Announcements ~ *MVL Association Meeting* All delegates are encouraged to attend the next Association meeting, being held on Sunday, February 16 at 7 pm at MVL. On Sunday, March 1, come over to MVL for good food and fun! The Booster Club is sponsoring a *pork chop dinner*, 10:30 am - 1 pm. Freewill offerings will support Booster Club projects. The annual *Winter Band Concert* follows at 1:30 pm, featuring the Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble. MVL is a participating organization of the *Thrivent Choice program*. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back! Eligible members have until March 31 to direct their Choice Dollars. Visit thrivent.com or speak with your local office for more information.

Mission Trip to Mexico ~ If you are interested in participating or learning more about this trip, please contact Staff Minister Kuschel at kkuschel@splnewulm.org. Participants must be 16 years or older and have some Spanish knowledge.

MLC Wind Symphony Concert ~ The Martin Luther College Wind Symphony presents "Be Still, My Soul: A Sacred Concert for Wind Band" on Sunday, February 16, at 3 pm in Chapel of the Christ. The concert will also feature the combined strength of the MLC Chorale, Mannerchör, and Women's Choir. Please join us for this concert of praise!

Marriage Enrichment ~ at St. Paul's Church. All married or engaged couples are invited to join us for Simply Marriage. This is a video based program by Pastor Randy Hunter. Each session is about an hour and a half. We will meet on February 16 and 23, March 1, 15, and 22 beginning at 4 pm. Childcare will be provided during the sessions.

Mentoring Event ~ You are invited to attend a special presentation brought to you by the MN River Valley Mentoring Program. Michelle Markgraf will be presenting “Breaking the Silence,” a look into Intimate Relationship Violence (IRV). Participants will examine their thoughts and beliefs about IRV in the context of God’s Word, learn to recognize the signs, and what to do when they see them. The event will be **Saturday, February 22nd, from 9-1030am**. It will be held at the St. Paul’s Lutheran Church fellowship hall located at 201 N. State Street, New Ulm, MN. This is a FREE event. RSVP is not required to attend, but will help us identify how many participants to expect. You can RSVP by the following methods: Email: MRVMentoring@gmail.com or via Google Form: <https://forms.gle/1HeavDpDk1EfuCQA7>

OWLS February Event ~ The OWLS invites all seniors to join us for a MLC performance of the winter play in a section of prime seats at 2 pm on Sunday, February 23. Seats will be reserved in the Wittenberg Collegiate Center auditorium until 1:45 pm. Purchase play tickets at the door for \$6. The attraction will be The Mouse That Roared, a humor filled play presented by the MLC Forum. It is proven entertainment and will lead us to muse on whether we want a government that seeks only to crush opposition or stands ready also to be merciful and forgiving. Perhaps the play will finish before 4:30 pm and those who may wish to visit with each other will be welcome to attend the Prairie Caterers evening meal beginning at 5 pm. It is served in the dining hall for guests at \$7.

Blood Drive ~ The Blood Drive at MLC will be Thursday, February 27th from 1-7 pm in the Luther Student Center! Every day in the U.S., approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed. That means every 2 seconds, someone needs blood. YOU have the chance to save up to 3 lives with your blood donation! YOU can sign up for an appointment by going to RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), or downloading the Blood Donor App! Can YOU arrange an hour out of your schedule to save lives? Contact Emily Raymond with any questions.

Job Opening ~ Martin Luther College is now accepting applications for one regular part-time Accounting Clerk - Accounts Payable. A comprehensive description of this position can be found at mlc-wels.edu/hr. Interested individuals should apply online. Applications will be accepted through 12 pm on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Additional information and details can be obtained by contacting the Martin Luther College Human Resources Office at 507-354-8221.

Administrative Teacher Jim Dretske
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Karen Grunwald
Teacher Jean Schroeder
St. John’s Church Office

jdretske@splnewulm.org
lbalsa@splnewulm.org
kgrunwald@splnewulm.org
jschroeder@splnewulm.org
stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

About the Cover ~ When Jesus preached his famous sermon on the Mount he reminded his listeners of how important God's Word is. Only through his Word are we brought to faith and made his servants who proclaim his truth which preserves the world and grants faith to those who hear it. Only through his Word can we truly serve him and become lights in a sin-darkened world. Let us hear his voice, for he saved us that we might be follow, serve and obey him.