



Fifth Sunday After Pentecost / Nativity of John the Baptizer
June 23 / 24, 2018

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
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New Ulm, MN

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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.

Minor Festival: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

June 23/24, 2018

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, you sent John the Baptizer to be the forerunner of the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. He called sinners to repent, and baptized them for the forgiveness of sin. He pointed the people to Jesus as the Lamb of God -- the one whose shoes he was not worthy to stoop down and tie. May we with the same faith, boldness, humility, and zeal come before you, O Lord, to honor and serve you. Grant us joy in knowing that Jesus must increase, but we must decrease on earth, so that in the end, through Jesus' perfect life and innocent death, we shall be exalted in heaven by his grace. We pray it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Order of Service: *Service of the Word* page 38

OPENING HYMN

By All Your Saints Still Striving

CW552

Stanzas 1, 12, 3

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double

for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall

become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 85

p. 97

SECOND LESSON

Acts 13:16-26

Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt, with mighty power he led them out of that country, he endured their conduct for about forty years in the desert, he overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as their inheritance. All this took about

450 years. "After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' "From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the

Savior Jesus, as he promised. Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.' "Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:57-66

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name." Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

HYMN of the DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CW16

SERMON

Luke 1:57-66

Christmas in June - The Nativity of John

- 1. God's Hand in the Miracle Birth**
- 2. Our Handles of Faith and Joy**

APOSTLES' CREED

p. 41

OFFERING

PRAYERS and LORD'S PRAYER

p. 42

HYMN

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

CW13

CLOSING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW11

† † †

**GUEST PREACHER
ORGANIST**

Brian Dose
Jonathan Roux

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	11 am	Adult Bible Class
	3:30 pm	Plocher / Doble Wedding
Mon	7 pm	Installation Choir Rehearsal
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Fri	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at Nehl's Park, 1100 Summit Ave.

† Upcoming Weekend Services †

Saturday: 7 pm
Sunday: 8 & 9:30 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul 1	11 am	Adult Bible Class
Jul 2	7 pm	Installation Choir Rehearsal
Jul 4		Church office closed
Jul 8	11 am	Adult Bible Class
	4 pm	Pastor Guenther Installation Service
Jul 9	7 pm	Elders Meeting
Jul 10	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Jul 13	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at Hermann Heights Park, 14 Monument St.
Jul 15	11 am	Adult Bible Class
Jul 17	7 pm	Quarterly Voters' Meeting
Jul 18	5:15 pm	St. Paul's Church Family Night at St. Paul's Church
Jul 20	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at South Park, 1800 S. State St.
Jul 21	9 am	Basement Reserved
Jul 22	11 am	Adult Bible Class
Jul 24	9 am	Vacation Bible School
	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Jul 25	9 am	Vacation Bible School
Jul 26	9 am	Vacation Bible School
Jul 27	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at German Park, 200 N. German St.
Jul 29	11 am	Adult Bible Class
Aug 1	5:15 pm	St. Paul's Church Family Night at St. Paul's Church
Aug 3	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at Hermann Heights Park, 14 Monument St.
Aug 5	11 am	Adult Bible Class
Aug 7	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Aug 8	5:15 pm	St. Paul's Church Family Night at St. Paul's Church
Aug 9		St. Paul's School Registration Day
Aug 10	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at Lincoln Park, 718 S. State St.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 310 with 229 attending Communion.

Fruits of faith given:

\$7,619	Home Operations ~ \$14,532 is our weekly need		
\$378	MVL ~ \$1,118 is our weekly need	\$507	Moving Expense
\$1,281	Missions ~ \$1,648 is our weekly need	\$5	Food & Fellowship
\$1,463	Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need	\$1	MLC Ladies Auxiliary

Hospitalized ~ We remember in our prayers Lisa Fenske who underwent surgery this past Friday at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. May God grant her health and healing according to his gracious will.

Installation for Pastor Guenther ~ will be Sunday, July 8, at 4 pm with a fellowship meal to follow. Please RSVP if you are intending to attend the meal by either signing up on the sheet in the gathering space, calling the St. John's office, or responding to an email invitation from St. John's. Help is needed for set up, food prep, serving, and clean up/take down - please sign the appropriate sheets in the gathering space if you are able to help in any of these areas. Men are encouraged to sign up, too!

Opportunities to support and welcome the Guenther family ~ A free will offering is planned for this month to defray expenses related to the Guenthers' move and to purchase some needed major appliances for the parsonage. Total expenses are estimated at \$12,000. An offering envelope for that purpose was included in the June *Fortress*. The envelope may be placed in the weekly offering basket or sent to the attention of Bookkeeper Wendy Lambrecht at the church. This tax-deductible gift will be recorded with your other contributions to St. John's. Please include your offering envelope number.

A separate collection is being gathered to fill the pantry for the Guenther parsonage and to provide other minor necessities for their home. You are invited to place a gift card, check or cash in an envelope labeled "Guenthers" into the offering basket by Sunday, July 1 (this gift is not tax-deductible).

Thank you for considering these opportunities to support and welcome our new pastor and his family. Please pray for their safe arrival.

Registration for Vacation Bible School (VBS) ~ Please join us for Vacation Bible School which will take place on July 24-26, 2018, at St. John's from 9:30 - 11am. This year's theme is: "The Heavens Declare the Glory of God." The cost is \$5 per student or \$10 per family. Go to our church website at www.stjohnsnewulm.com or our Facebook page: facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm for online registration. All of the information needed is included in the form. Please feel free to email Missy Hunter at missyann18@hotmail.com with any questions or if you have any problems using the online form. If you do not have internet, registrations cards will be available, but we would prefer that you register online if possible. **If you or your child (7th grade & up) would like to teach or help**, there is a signup section for helpers or teachers (The helper slots are at the bottom of the registration sheet). We can use you. Please feel free to pass this information to others. Hope to see you there.

Needed for Vacation Bible School (VBS) ~ Fiberfill is needed to stuff pillows for a VBS project this year. Donations of odds and ends of new fiberfill or quilt batting would be wonderful. We also could use some help with fabric cutting to be prepped for this event. St. John's Vacation Bible School is planned for July 24-26. Registration details will be out soon. We are also looking for teachers and aides. Contact Karen Grunwald for details at 507-217-6229.

Open House ~ Since many have been curious to see the parsonage next door, this weekend there will be an open house following each church service (also Saturday night) for anyone who would like to see it.

Fellowship Sundays ~ Sunday, July 22nd, will be our next summer Fellowship Sunday. Stop under the covered walkway for some morning snacks after the 8 am service, continuing until after the 9:30 am service. Next month's Fellowship Sunday will be August 5th.

Voter's and Council Meetings Date Change ~ Please note the Voter's Meeting for July will take place on July 17 at 7 pm. There will be no Council meeting in July. The Council meeting for August will take place on August 21 at 7 pm.

Volunteers Needed ~ St. John's is responsible for staffing the food shelf in July. Volunteers are needed. Norreen Ubel is the contact at 354-8661.

Summer Bible Class ~ The summer Bible class takes place following the 9:30 service on Sunday mornings. The study will be on the book of Hebrews, starting chapter 8 — Jesus our Great High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. Even if you have not been in the class yet, you can jump in any time.

A Time to Build Campaign Update ~ Work has begun on moving utilities in preparation for a spring, 2019 commencement of the school improvement project. The overall sentiment at the June 10th St. Paul's Voters' meeting is that we need to go ahead with the project. The voters directed the Church Council to come up with a firm funding plan early in the fall to cover the \$6.7 million project. This will include member loans, a loan from a lending institution, and funds we have in hand. So far, God's people have given \$2,279,952 to the project and the fund balance is \$1,768,035. Please keep the project in your prayers. Donations may be payable to St. Paul's Lutheran School.

St. Paul's School ~ Principal at St. Paul's School At the Voter's meeting on June 10, Mr. Peter Markgraf from Sioux Falls, SD, was called for one year to serve as our interim principal. On the evening of June 21, he accepted the call. Since this is a one-year Interim call, his plan is to commute weekly and continue to reside in Sioux Falls, going home on weekends. Please keep St. Paul's and the Markgraf family in your prayers as he considers this call. **Farewell Reception** On Sunday, June 24, 9:30 am service at St Paul's Church, we will say farewell to Greg and Lisa Thiesfeldt. A reception will follow in the fellowship area. A box will be available for cards. **Job Openings** Permanent kitchen position available at St. Paul's Lutheran School starting August, 2018. Position would be a minimum of 2 hours per day from 11 am - 1 pm. The job includes serving, clean up, and occasional meal prep along with other duties. Contact Jenny with questions at 354-2329 ext 118. Please leave a message. Applications are available at school office. Also, the Pre-K is growing! If interested in a part time (4 afternoons/week), **Pre-K Aide position for the 2018-2019 school year**, please request the job description and application form from St. Paul's School Secretary, Kristal Miller. She may be reached at the school office or school@splnewulm.org. Applications will be received until 3 pm on Tuesday, July 10.

Family Bible Nights at St. Paul's Church ~ A study of the fourth commandment: in our homes, our churches, our communities will be on Wednesdays, July 18th, August 1st and August 8th. The event begins with a picnic at 5:15 pm, followed by opening worship, Bible study, activities and closing. Come and enjoy food, fun and Christian fellowship. At the same time let the Lord bless your heart and home with the message of his love and goodness. Family Bible Time is for all ages. Bring friends. Sign up at: splnewulm.org/church/event/family-bible-night/.

Campus Ministries ~ True North in the Twin Cities and The Beacon in Mankato are two opportunities for our young adults to be involved in God's Word as they study for other professions. Contact our Pastor to see who is serving as campus Pastor where you are attending school. There are signup sheets for True North in the Narthex.

Staff Minister Kelly Emde

Administrative Teacher Jim Dretske

Teacher Laura Balza

Teacher Karen Grunwald

Teacher Jean Schroeder

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About the Cover ~ Zechariah, the father of John the Baptizer was not merely dumb-founded at the announcement of his son's birth, he was stricken mute by the angel Gabriel because of his doubt. But when his tongue was loosed he was enabled to sing a magnificent song of praise to God and say of the amazing child born to him and his wife Elizabeth: "And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him." And that is exactly what John did, preaching that all should follow the one to come after him, calling sinners to repentance, baptizing them for the forgiveness of sins, and proclaiming that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. For thus it was foretold of this great prophet of God even from Old Testament times. May his example be a model to us as servants of Jesus Christ our Lord.