



A  
farmer went out  
to sow his seed...



Matthew 13:3

Illustration by Russ McMullin

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost ~ July 25 / 26, 2020

# St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

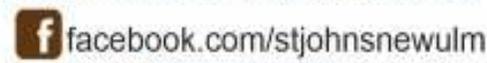
Pastor Jeffrey Bovee  
revbovee@gmail.com  
507-217-6364 Cell

[www.stjohnsnewulm.com](http://www.stjohnsnewulm.com)  
Email: [stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com)

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



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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.



# ***Eighth Sunday after Pentecost***

**July 25/26, 2020**

**Prayer before worship:** Almighty God, because we are sinful, all of us know that there are times when we treat your Word as the unsuitable soil in the parable of the sower: hard-hearted, shallow, distracted by worldly riches and cares. For this forgive us. From this deliver us. Instead, by your grace, take away our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh. Cause us to receive your Word by faith, which translates into joy and hope. Strengthen us through your Word, and make us zealous and bold to proclaim it to others that they too may be saved through it. Open our hearts now to hear and receive your precious Word. We pray it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*Saturday: The soloist will sing all hymns and musical notations (♩).  
11 am: The service begins on page 9*

## **PRESERVICE**

### ***Eagle's Wings***

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!"

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:  
under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

For to His angels He's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands, they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

## **OPENING HYMN**

### ***My Soul, Now Bless Your Maker***

**CW 257**

1. My soul, now bless your Maker! Let all within me bless his name  
Who makes me a partaker Of mercies more than I dare claim.  
Forget him not whose meekness Still bears with all your sin,  
Who heals your ev'ry weakness, Renews your life within,  
Whose grace and care are endless And saved you through the past,  
Who leaves no suff'rer friendless But rights the wronged at last.
2. For as a tender father Has pity on his children here,  
He in his arms will gather All who are his in childlike fear.  
He knows how frail our powers Who but from dust are made.  
We flourish like the flowers, And even so we fade.  
The wind but through them passes, And all their bloom is o'er.  
We wither like the grasses; Our place knows us no more.
3. God's grace stands fast, enduring, And children's children yet shall prove  
His strength abides, assuring The hearts of all who seek his love.  
In heav'n is fixed his dwelling; His rule is over all.  
Angels, in might excelling, Bright hosts, before him fall.  
Praise him in song forever, All you who hear his Word.  
He hears our hymns with favor—My soul, oh, bless the Lord!

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER and PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

♪: **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪: **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 55:10,11**

As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
without watering the earth

and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the  
sower and bread for the eater,  
so is my word that goes out from

my mouth: It will not return to  
me empty, but will accomplish  
what I desire and achieve the  
purpose for which I sent it.

## PSALM of the DAY

**Psalm 65**

CW p. 89

*Saturday: soloist will sing the refrain; congregation will speak the verses*



The earth is full of the good-ness of God, the good-ness of our God.



Praise awaits you, O God,\*  
you call forth songs of joy.

You care for the land and water it;\*  
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

The streams of God are filled with water\*  
to provide the people with grain.

## Refrain

You crown the year with your bounty,\*  
and your carts overflow with abundance.

The grasslands of the desert overflow;\*  
the hills are clothed with gladness.

The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain;\*  
they shout for joy and sing.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **Refrain**

## **SECOND LESSON**

## **Romans 8:18-25**

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan

inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

## **ANTHEM**

### ***Be Still My Soul***

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide; In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'nly friend Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake To guide the future as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

## **GOSPEL**

## **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was

scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they

had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*

♪: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN of the DAY**

***Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast***

**CW 324**

1. Almighty God, your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend And righteous fruits abound.
2. Let not the foe of Christ and man This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
3. Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.
4. Whene'er the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow'r may know.

**SERMON**

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**GOD'S WORD IS THE SEED OF SALVATION**

- 1. SOWN INDISCRIMINATELY**
- 2. RECEIVED IN DIFFERENT WAYS**
- 3. PRODUCES FRUIT IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT**

**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.**

## OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

### PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

P: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

P: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

P: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

P: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory  
forever and forever. Amen.

**HYMN*****Preach You the Word*****CW 544**

1. Preach you the Word and plant it home To those who like or like it not,  
The Word that shall endure and stand When flow'rs and mortals are forgot.
2. We know how hard, O Lord, the task Your servant bids us undertake:  
To preach your Word and never ask What prideful profit it may make.
3. The sower sows; his reckless love Scatters abroad the goodly seed,  
Intent alone that there may be The wholesome loaves that people need.
4. Though some be snatched and some be scorched And some be choked and matted flat,  
The sower sows; his heart cries out, "Oh, what of that, and what of that?"
5. Preach you the Word and plant it home And never faint; the Harvest-Lord  
Who gave the sower seed to sow Will watch and tend his planted Word.

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in 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.**

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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*****On My Heart Imprint Your Image*****CW 320**

On my heart imprint your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Have no pow'r to hide your face.  
This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation.

† † †

**PREACHER**  
**PRESIDING MINISTER**  
**ORGANIST**  
**SOLOIST**

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee  
Pastor Rob Guenther  
Grace Hennig  
Molly Hennig

# HOLY BAPTISM of Caysen Jay Fischer Laway

## OPENING HYMN

### *Dearest Jesus, We Are Here*

CW 295

1. Dearest Jesus, we are here, Gladly your command obeying;  
With this child we now draw near In response to your own saying  
That to you it shall be given As a child and heir of heaven.
2. Lord, your Word is clear and plain, And we will obey it duly:  
"He who is not born again, Heart and life renewing truly,  
Born of water and the Spirit, Can my kingdom not inherit."
3. Therefore we have come to you, In our arms this infant bearing.  
Here we shall forgiveness view. May this child, your mercy sharing,  
In your arms be shielded ever, Yours on earth and yours forever.
4. Gracious Head, your member own; Shepherd, take your lamb and feed it;  
Prince of Peace, make here your throne; Way of Life, to heaven lead it.  
Precious Vine, let nothing sever From your side this branch forever.
5. Now into your heart we pour Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.  
Our petitions heav'nward soar; May our warm desires be heeded!  
Write the name we now have given; Write it in the book of heaven!

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

**C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

P: As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought this child to be baptized. Jesus told us: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart † to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

*Caysen Jay Fischer Laway*, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

*Please stand*

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that *Caysen* may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

**C: Yes, as God gives me strength.**

P: Let us pray:

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on *Caysen* and grant him a rich measure of your Spirit that they may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Service resumes with PRAYER and PRAISE on page 4*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Attendance** for the past weekend was 309 with 229 attending Communion.

Fruits of faith given:

\$8,553	Home Operations ~ \$15,346 is our weekly need		
\$639	MVL ~ \$1,163 is our weekly need	\$76	MLC Ladies' Auxiliary
\$1,644	Missions ~ \$1,714 is our weekly need	\$30	LWMS
\$639	Building Fund ~ \$1,397 is our weekly need	\$20	K-12 Education Assistance

**Altar Flowers** ~ have been given in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of John and Connie Micheel.

**Made a Child of God Through Holy Baptism** ~ during the 11 am service, is Caysen Jay Fischer Laway, son of Stephan Laway and Samantha Fischer. May God keep Caysen in the baptismal promise of God's grace in Christ until he is with him in glory.

**Voters' Meeting** ~ The St. John's voters' assembly will gather for the third quarterly meeting of the year on Tuesday, July 28, at 7 pm in the church sanctuary. Voters in attendance will be asked to practice social distancing and wear a mask according to the guidelines used for weekend worship services. In addition to the usual reports from called workers, boards, and committees, the congregation will receive an update on the progress of the Ministry Review 2020 process. Voters will also be asked to react to a list of opportunities identified by the church council as a part of the review process and the recent congregational survey. See the bulletin insert for the complete list.

**Fun at the Pool** ~ St. John's has reserved the Sleepy Eye Aquatic Center on Saturday, August 1, for a free fun night of fellowship! It will begin at 5:45 pm with a brief devotion and song at Burnside Park next to the pool, and then the pool will be open from 6:15 - 8:15 pm. Due to COVID-19 guidelines we are restricted to 190 attendees. Please go to [bit.ly/StJohnsPoolParty](https://bit.ly/StJohnsPoolParty) to reserve spots for anyone in your family group. There will be a waiting list, so if anyone decides not to come those on the waiting list will be contacted. If the guidelines change before then the website will be changed accordingly, Parents, this is not a drop-off event. Please stay on site for the entire duration. We hope to see many of you there!

**Bible Class** ~ will continue online. Join us Sunday evenings at 7 pm for a study of *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. The class will be held at Meet.Google.com (or with the Google Meet app on your smartphone or tablet) with "meeting code" tjx-anhj-gvx. Or use this shortcut which automatically enters the code for you: <https://bit.ly/STJLCNUMeet> (Note: the link is case sensitive). You can also call in over the phone at (209) 457-0523 using PIN: 100 259 597# (Note: This will be a long distance call.) The meeting room can hold up to 250 participants, so feel free to tell your friends!

**St. John's Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions will be Scheduling Soon!** ~ We are again contracting with Lifetouch studios to photograph our St John's family for our pictorial directory. These are the dates and times:

Tuesday – Friday, August 4 - 7	2 - 9 pm
Saturday, August 8	10 am - 5 pm
Thursday & Friday, September 10 & 11	2 - 9 pm
Saturday, September 12	10 am - 5 pm

You can schedule your appointments using an online scheduling link that you can find on our website, but we also will have paper forms available on weekends at church for those who would rather sign up in person. You will find them in our gathering space. The dates are coming up quickly, so schedule soon! If you have any questions, contact our church office at 354-6744.

**Sending Offerings through Bill Pay** ~ Several members of St. John's have asked if there is a way for them to make their weekly offerings automatically either online or by an automatic bank transaction. St. John's is investigating our online giving options, but are not yet ready to receive online gifts. For the time being, we suggest that our members consider using your bank's online Bill Pay service to make weekly or monthly gifts to St. John's. If you have questions about using Bill Pay to make donations, please contact Financial Secretary Mike Thom at 507-217-7671.

**MVL Announcements ~ Open Positions** 1. A part-time custodian(s) to work 25 hours per week. For more information contact Ken Opitz at MVL at 507-354-6851 or kopitz@mvlhs.org. 2. A part-time food service worker for approximately three hours each school day. Tasks include food preparation and service, washing dishes and clean up. Individuals interested in this position should contact Elizabeth Fluegge at MVL at 507-354-6851, 507-993-5195, or foodservice@mvlhs.org. 3. A WELS or ELS male to serve as Director of Mission Advancement. Interested individuals should contact MVL Principal, Dr. Tim Plath, for more information at 507-354-6851 or tplath@mvlhs.org.

**WELS & ELS Singles Facebook Group** ~ If you're single (unmarried, divorced, widowed) and looking to socialize, make friends, or enjoy fellowship with other singles who share your faith, we encourage you to join our Facebook group! Our group consists of over 260 members with ages ranging from 18-65+. We're an active group who loves sharing Biblical encouragement, prayers, Lutheran memes, personal victories, and tacos. Our page is full of discussion posts and we typically have a weekly video hangout on Sunday evenings. We'd love to have you join us.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wels.els.singles>

**Food Kit Available** ~ The New Ulm Area Food Shelf and the Lions Club of New Ulm are offering a 14-day food kit for seniors 65+ who are homebound because of COVID-19. Homebound is defined as those who only leave home for medical reasons. If you are in need of food and would like this delivered to you, please call the food shelf at 354-7668. If no one answers, please leave a message with your name, address and phone number. Speak slowly and clearly. Someone will contact you to ask about any special diet needs and let you know when the delivery will be made.

**Family Bible Nights at St. Paul's Church** ~ \*Update: Please join us for Family Bible Nights on July 29, August 12, and August 19 at St. Paul's Church from 6 - 7:45 pm. Our theme for this year is "Nothing to Fear." Each evening will include devotions, age specific Bible study, and activities for families of all types. Please sign up at the St. Paul's website: [splnewulm.org/church/](http://splnewulm.org/church/), or call the St. Paul's church office at 507-354-3641.

**Job Opening** ~ Treasure Haus is looking for a manager. A floor manager position is open for 2 days per week. If interested please stop by and pick up an application or speak to one of the current managers.

**Staff Minister Jim Dretske**  
**Teacher Christine Baganz**  
**Teacher Laura Balza**  
**Teacher Karen Grunwald**  
**Teacher Emily Stoering**  
**St. John's Church Office**

sm.dretske@gmail.com  
cbaganz@splnewulm.org  
lbalza@splnewulm.org  
kgrunwald@splnewulm.org  
estoering@splnewulm.org  
stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

**About the Cover** ~ \*Artist Russ McMullin depicts the parable of the sower and the seed. It really illustrates four types of hearts or more appropriately, the way in which various people hear and receive the Word of God when it is proclaimed. Although many will hear and reject what is preached and taught, there will also be those who by God's grace alone, hear it, believe it, and are saved through it.

\*Mr. McMullin was not only good enough to give us permission to use his art on our bulletin cover, but allowed us to use it for free. For this we thank him. He also mentioned to Pastor Bovee that the Sower and the Seed is one of his favorite parables. If you are interested in more of his artwork and tutorials, his website is [Scratchboard.org](http://Scratchboard.org).