

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington
New Ulm MN 56073

Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW ULM, MN
PERMIT No. 157



A NEW BEGINNING RENEWED IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Welcome to the New Year. It's a sort of special time because we regard it as an opportunity to have a new beginning, as if everything can start over fresh and renewed.

Of course, the reality of it is that many of the old problems are really not left behind. They tend to follow us wherever we go, even into the New Year. The debts, the hard feelings, the illnesses, all have a way rearing their ugly heads again. For sinners such as we, grudges, sicknesses, sorrows, and creditors are not so easily shaken. They tend to continue to taunt and harass us even though we attempt to ignore them and pretend, for at least a brief moment, that they aren't really there anymore.

Thankfully these problems are all temporary. In fact, the greatest problem in our lives, the one which incurred the greatest debt, inflicted the most painful wounds, and was the heaviest burden we had to bear, has in reality been taken off our shoulders. We do not have to pretend at all; it is really all gone. For the burden which brought every painful problem upon us has now been taken away for us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ has taken away our sin. He removed the guilt that weighed us down. Not just the feelings of guilt, which Martin Luther referred to as regret. All of us have regret over things we did wrong in the past and wish we could undo. Those are only guilt feelings. We all have such remorse. Feelings and emotions are never a good gauge to determine whether we have a right relationship with God nor can we be sure we are forgiven because we can sense it.

No, Jesus took away the real guilt, that is, the sin that condemned us before God and separated us from him. When Jesus died on the cross, his perfect sacrifice paid the real debt for our real sin. What is more, his perfect righteousness really counts for all of us. Through faith in Jesus we are declared innocent in God's sight.

St. Paul reminds us that it had nothing to do with us. He wrote: **Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.**

January 2016

A New Beginning Renewed in Christ.....	1-2
January Sermon Texts.....	2
From Your Staff Minister.....	2
Your Synod At Work	3
SW MN Area Lutheran Chorale	3
St. Paul's Lutheran School.....	4
Stewardship.....	4
Calendar	5
Archives.....	6
LWMS.....	6-7
Cards of Caring.....	7
December Birthdays	7

Welcome to St. John's!

627 S. Washington St. 507-354-6744

www.stjohnsnewulm.org

Worship Times

Saturdays: 7 pm (No service January 2)

Sundays: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

Adult Bible Classes

Thursdays: 10:30 & 7 pm

Fridays: Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: 6:30 am

Fridays: Women's Bible Class: 9:30 am

Sundays: 9:30 & 10:45 am (No class January 3 or 10)

Children's Sunday School

Sundays: 9:30 am (No class January 3 or 10)

Staff

Pastor Wayne A. Laitinen
wayne.laitinen@gmail.com

Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com

Staff Minister Kelly Emde
kremde@comcast.net

Church Office
stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

Bookkeeper
wlambrecht@newulmtel.net

Administrative Teacher
jdretske@splnewulm.org

Although we cannot see them with eyes of flesh, we see God’s eternal blessings and embrace his gracious promises by faith. Even in the midst of trial and pain we can know that Jesus Christ, our Savior, is our Redeemer who has freed us from Satan’s power, and promises we have right relationship with God, our Heavenly Father.

The Prophet Jeremiah wrote in the book of Lamentations that God’s mercies are new every morning. With each new day we can look out at the sunrise and realize we have a new beginning with God in Christ, for the slate of sin has been wiped clean by his blood. It is Jeremiah who also reminds us that God remembers our sin no more.

For the Christian, it is more than just wishful thinking that we have a new beginning in 2016. It is not because of the turn of the year on the calendar, but because in Christ we are made new and are able to start all over again. We are renewed, and made a new creation in Christ our Lord. May this promise enable us to live in joyful service to the glory of his holy name in the year to come.

In Christ,
Pastor Bovee

From Your Staff Minister

2016 has arrived! Thank you to all of you who served, who offered financial gifts, and who prayed for the good of the Church. You have given to the Lord and he has blessed St John's.

If you haven’t been asked to serve and would like to volunteer, please ask me for some insight on where you can serve. God’s blessings on your 2016!

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.' (Mt 2:1-2)

January Sermon Texts

Jan. 1	2 Chronicles 20:5-19	The Lord Will Be With You
Jan. 3	Psalms 2	The Heathen for Your Inheritance
Jan. 10	Titus 3:4-7	Baptism: The Washing of Rebirth
Jan. 17	John 2:1-11	The First Miraculous Sign at Cana
Jan. 24	2 Timothy 1:1-7	Do Not Be Ashamed of Our Lord
Jan. 31	Luke 4:20-32	The Prophet’s Rejection at Nazareth

Library News

“Rainbow Savior” was written by Rev. William Monday, pastor at Faith Ev. Lutheran Church in Excelsior, MN. In the first part, Pastor Monday is speaking to someone who is struggling with the issue of homosexuality. In the second part of the book, Pastor Monday is speaking to a congregation that is distressed by this divisive issue because of our society at large. He uses God’s Word to speak the truth in love and provides words for Christians to use when speaking on this subject.

Mary Moerbe has written a book to help parents teach their children about the worship service and what is happening during the service. It is called “Whisper, Whisper” and the subtitle is “Leaning About Church.” The rhyming style makes it enjoyable for very young children. There is a teaching moment at the bottom of each page and tips for parents at the end of the book.

Also added to the children’s section are two books which are part of the Just For Me series. “We Are Different and Alike” was written by Cynthia Geisen and deals with diversity in a child’s world. “My Family is Changing” was written by Emily Menendez and is subtitled “A Book about Divorce.” The illustrations are colorful and the language is easy for young children to understand.

Please check your home library for any overdue materials from the library and return them when it is convenient.

Cards of Caring

After a break for Christmas, the Cards of Caring group plan to meet on Saturday, January 16 and Saturday, February 6, to make winter and Valentine’s cards for our homebound and thinking of you members and for our Befriend a Mission LWMS friends.

We will continue to meet at 308 S. Washington St. between the hours of 9 am to 12 pm. No craft experience is needed. Come for fellowship and fun. Contact Lois Willems with questions at 359-7403.

- 1

Mavis Davis

2

Aiden Weisensel

3

Nicki Dummer

4

Mikel Lueck

5

Hannah Gaub

6

Mary Jo Levorson

7

Sharon More

8

Amanda Lingl

9

LaShawn Smith

10

Wayne Wels

11

Siri Zahrt

12

Sandra Burdorf

13

Jordon Wenninger

14

Kathy Henderson

15

Kim Peterson

16

Marie Raddatz

17

Renee Block

18

James Pope

19

Austin Schroeder

20

David Wendler

21

Taylor Davis

22

Brianna Nolte

23

Wendy Ristow

24

Heidi Tanley

25

Ella Wurster
- 13

Lukas Borgwardt

14

Caleb Filzen

15

Marion Slettedahl

16

Cathy Pope

17

Adelaide Price

18

Scott Scheid

19

Elta Buboltz

20

Jeremy Fredrickson

21

Molly Scheid

22

Paige Berg

23

Caleb Hunter

24

Wayne Laitinen

25

Luke Dinse

26

James Rathje

27

Randy Reinhart

28

Ikuko Poetter

29

Madelynn Wels

30

Laura Wynn

31

Kelly Emde

32

Pamela Plagge

33

Margaret Brei

34

Karissa Nolte

35

Luke Scheid

36

Bradley Besemer

37

Ruth Roehr
- 22

JoAnn Brandes

23

Lillian Brandes

24

Dustin Hagen

25

Becca Koelpin

26

Sean Wynn

27

Justin Marks

28

Brandon Vonderharr

29

Peyton Toltzman

30

Anika Enter

31

Abbey Filzen

32

Hannah Pehling

33

Paul Koelpin

34

Lucas Schmit

35

Adam Nilson

36

Amber Toltzman

37

Mark Weinkauff

38

Shelly Wenninger

39

Julian Alvarez

40

Lukas Alvarez

41

Jim Dretske

42

James Schroeder

43

Isaiah Smith

44

Kellan Beatty

45

Emily Knoll

46

Marlene Lambrecht

47

Abbott Lang

Happy Birthday!

Archives

Those Who Served

Over the years St. John’s has held elections just like our government does but with a different purpose. Though this article may just be names, it might also bring back some special memories and indicate some changes in the organization of the congregation. Their service was important to the history of St. John’s

1955: Pastor, Rollin Reim. The 1955 Annual Report names William Brei as Moderator and the following as members of the Church Council: Fred Nieno, Chairman and Deacon; Herbert Bade, Secretary; Don Engel, Treasurer; Paul Vorwerk, Financial Secretary, Ervin Reiner, Trustee Chairman; Henry Wacker, and Maynard Beilke as Trustees.

1965: Pastor, Frederick Nitz. Alvin Rolloff was Moderator; John Oldfield, Secretary; Arthur Gronholz, Treasurer; Henry Baumann, Financial Secretary; Howard Kaiser, Arnold Koelpin, and Edwin Bauermeister served as Elders; Elvin Stoering, Roland Mehlberg and Otto Wacker as Trustees; and Elmer Kitzrow as Deacon.

1990: Pastor, Norval Kock; David Zabel, Director of Christian Education. Rodney Karnitz, Howard Wessel, Dennis Jasperson, Robert Johnson, David Stoering, John Paulsen, John Moldenhauer, Charles Enter, Steven Fenske and Gerald Yanz served,

respectively as President, Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Deacon and Chairs of the Boards for Stewardship, of Education, Trustees, and Evangelism.

2005: Pastors, Jeffrey Bovee and Wayne Laitinen; Administrative Teacher, James Dretske. Serving on the Church Council were officers: President, Steven Thiesfeldt; Vice President, Kevin Doering; Secretary, Roger Hermanson; Treasurer, Wayne Wels and Financial Secretary, Jim Grunwald. John Paulsen served as Deacon, Philip Leyrer as Stewardship Chair, John Boeder as Youth and Education Chair, Rod Karnitz as Trustees Chair, Bob Mielke as Evangelism Chair, and Darvin Raddatz as Elders Chair.

For **2015 and for 2016** you may refer to the Annual Report.

Many others also served over the years as members of boards and committees, ushers, officers and leaders of other organizations and in other less official capacities. Some names will appear in future articles. Over the years some names reoccur for various offices and positions. Maybe sometime it might be interesting to see who has the record for most offices or positions held. Is there anyone willing to volunteer to research this? Thanks to all.

Bob Krueger

Your Synod at Work

Board for Ministerial Education

According to the 2015 Book of Reports and Memorials for WELS, The “continuing scriptural purpose of our ministerial educations schools is the preparation of candidates for the public ministry of the gospel to proclaim Christ’s love in the congregations, schools, and mission fields of our fellowship.” The schools also include in their purpose “the continuing education of those who already serve in the ministry of the gospel.”

A special emphasis of the last biennium has been to identify and strengthen the partnerships with all of the areas and groups in the WELS church body.

The Board for Ministerial Education “distributes subsidy to the ministerial educations schools from a block grant supplied by the Synodical Council. As a result, there are stable reserves and normal annual tuition increases for Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and Martin Luther College. There are basically two working groups:

- 1. There is a working group on financial assistance that has the goal that no student is denied the ability to train for the ministry of the gospel because of financial reasons. Schools are developing their partnership with the Ministry of Christian Giving to be sure that financial assistance programs are adequately supported.

- 2. There is a working group on programmed maintenance to address capital needs on our campuses. This working group is re-evaluating the effectiveness of the formula it uses for the allocation of programmed maintenance funding to individual schools. Capital campaigns at the schools are conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Christian Giving, reviewed and adopted as a regular part of the synod budget process.

Also, over the last biennium, the ministerial education schools have put considerable effort into partnerships with the Conference of Presidents and the Congregation and Ministry Support Group to expand current efforts in the continuing education of called workers.

As the Book of Reports and Memorials states, “we give thanks to God who continues to supply our synod with young men and women who willing to serve anywhere that the church needs them, who believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, and who treasure the precious Lutheran heritage of the unconditional gospel.”

Gerald Woodley



Southwest Minnesota Area Lutheran Choral

The Southwest Minnesota Area Lutheran Choral will begin rehearsing for their 2016 Season on Sunday, January 17, 2016. This will be our 35th year of singing God's praises together. Eight rehearsals are planned to prepare us for the March 13, 2016 Sacred Music Concerts, which will be held at St. John Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls, MN (2 pm) and at Trinity Lutheran Church, Nicollet (7 pm).

Rehearsals will be held at St. John Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls, MN from 2 -5 pm on the following Sundays: January 17, 24 and 31, February 7, 14, 21 and 28, March 6 and March 11.

Jim Renz and Linette Scharlemann will be sharing the directing duties this season. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this Choral, please contact Jim at (507) 327-7222 or Linette at (507) 227-2161.

We pray many new singers from your congregation, as well as all who have sung in the past, will be able to join us as this Choral gathers to sing praises to our Advent King. In Christ alone, James Renz (jrskzner_628@yahoo.com) and Linette Scharlemann (linette.m.scharlemann@gmail.com).

St. Paul's Lutheran School

Christmas Break

School will resume on Monday, January 4th. The end of the 2nd Quarter will be Friday, January 15 with report cards going home the following Friday. There will be no school on Monday, January 18. The faculty will be having an In-Service - The first half of a Math Curriculum Work Day at MLC with other schools in the area. The last half will be on February 15th.

SPLS Building Committee

The St. Paul's Building Committee has continued to meet to determine the goals of adding space to the school as well as refurbishing the original school building. They have also met with the architects to draw plans to match the desires of the congregational vote in early December. The SP Voters were in favor of only borrowing once for the project, so the initial Entrance/Handicapped Bathrooms/Elevator cost of \$2.5 million would need to be raised to complete that phase without borrowing. There was discussion of combining the Entrance/Early Childhood Wing into a first phase, so the architect is drawing that at this time. There was also some discussion of replacing present windows in the school due to their lack of efficiency. There are still many unknowns but details are becoming more focused as discussions and additional preliminary drawings are made.

Student Picture Day

Lifetouch will be taking pictures on Friday, January 29th at school. These would be more formal portrait type pictures. Lifetouch encourages all students to have pictures taken, yet there is no obligation to purchase. Families will be able to choose to order once the pictures are printed. Families can return unwanted pictures.

Calendar

Jan. 4	School resumes
15	End Quarter 2
18	NO School - Teacher In-Service
22	Report Cards go home
24	Grades K-4 sing: 8 am
31	Jr. Choir (5-8) sing: 8 am
Feb. 7-13	Lutheran Schools Week

Respectfully submitted, James L. Dretske,
Administrative Teacher
Email: jdretske@splnewulm.org

St. Paul's School Web Site:
www.splnewulm.org/school (New Site)

Stewardship

Stewardship of the Word: Christian Education for Adults

As we practice a careful stewardship of God's Word in our lives, we wish to utilize all opportunities we have for Christian education.

For ourselves: we are lifelong learners. We can always glean something new or something relevant from God's Word as we personally study or as we learn at the feet of others. We are blessed to live in a country where reading our Bibles is not prohibited or obstructed. We are blessed to have pastors who can and do study the Scriptures in the original Greek and Hebrew, and who are able and willing to teach us. Let us make habits of learning more about our gracious God. For encouragement on being lifelong learners, read through the book of Titus (only three chapters) in which Paul exhorts the church to maintain proper teaching so that all may learn sound doctrine.

4 St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John currently offers six distinct adult Bible classes, listed below, each week. The times and topics are also published in the bulletin each week. We are grateful to the teachers of those classes for their willingness and dedication. May we humbly seek to teach and learn more about our Lord throughout our lives.

Josiah Stoering,
Chairman

The purpose of the Board of Stewardship is to assist St. John's members with the God-pleasing management of all the resources God has entrusted to us for the purposes of bringing him glory and carrying out the work of the church.

Bible Class Topic	Day and Time
Reformations' Effect on Everyday Life	Sunday, 9:30 am
Read through the Bible	Sunday, 10:45 am
2 Samuel	Thursday, 10:30 am
The Challenge of Islam	Thursday, 7 pm
Speaking the Truth in Love to Muslims	Friday, 6:30 am
The Case for Traditional Marriage	Friday, 9:30 am

Bible Class Topic	Day and Time
Reformations' Effect on Everyday Life	Sunday, 9:30 am
Read through the Bible	Sunday, 10:45 am
2 Samuel	Thursday, 10:30 am
The Challenge of Islam	Thursday, 7 pm
Speaking the Truth in Love to Muslims	Friday, 6:30 am
The Case for Traditional Marriage	Friday, 9:30 am

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH NEW ULM, MN 56073					JANUARY 2016 354-6744	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Looking Ahead Feb. 7 PreK - 8 sing at 11 am: Lutheran Schools Week Begins Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday Services: 4 and 6 pm; Meal: 4:45 - 6 pm Feb. 17 & 24 Midweek Lenten Services: 4 and 6 pm; Meal: 4:45 - 6 pm					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE 9 AM	2 NO SATURDAY SERVICE
3 Epiphany WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION 8, 9:30 & 11 AM	4 7 pm Elders Meeting	5 7 pm Women of St. John's Meeting	6 6:30 pm Public Catechism	7 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 7 pm Adult Bible Class	8 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	9 WORSHIP 7 PM
10 Epiphany I WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM	11 7 pm Trustees Meeting	12 4 pm Oak Hills Living Center Service 6 pm Sunday School Teachers' Meeting 7 pm Stewardship Meeting	13 6:30 pm Public Catechism Sr. Choir 7 pm	14 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 7 pm Adult Bible Class	15 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	16 9 am Cards of Caring WORSHIP 7 PM W/ COMMUNION
17 Epiphany 2 WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 9:30 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 10:45 am Bible Class	18 4 pm Ridgeway on 23rd Service	19 4 pm Oak Hills Living Center Service 7 pm Council	20 6:30 pm Public Catechism Sr. Choir 7 pm	21 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 7 pm Adult Bible Class	22 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	23 WORSHIP 7 PM
24 Epiphany 3 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 8 am Gr. K-4 sing 9:30 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 10:45 am Bible Class	25	26	27 6:30 pm Public Catechism Sr. Choir 7 pm	28 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 7 pm Adult Bible Class	29 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class St. John's MVL Night	30 WORSHIP 7 PM
31 Epiphany 4 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 9:30 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 10:45 am Bible Class 11 am Jr. Choir sings	Correspondence Pastor Jeffrey Bovee Pastor Wayne Laitinen Kelly Emde Wendy Lambrecht Jim Dretske Church Office			T.V. Service: Mondays: 6 pm Tuesdays: 1 pm Thursdays: 10 am on Comcast Channel 14 NU Telecom Channel 3		

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH NEW ULM, MN 56073					JANUARY 2016 354-6744	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Looking Ahead Feb. 7 PreK - 8 sing at 11 am: Lutheran Schools Week Begins Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday Services: 4 and 6 pm; Meal: 4:45 - 6 pm Feb. 17 & 24 Midweek Lenten Services: 4 and 6 pm; Meal: 4:45 - 6 pm					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE 9 AM	2 NO SATURDAY SERVICE
3 Epiphany WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION 8, 9:30 & 11 AM	4 7 pm Elders Meeting	5 7 pm Women of St. John's Meeting	6 6:30 pm Public Catechism	7 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 7 pm Adult Bible Class	8 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	9 WORSHIP 7 PM
10 Epiphany I WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM	11 7 pm Trustees Meeting	12 4 pm Oak Hills Living Center Service 6 pm Sunday School Teachers' Meeting 7 pm Stewardship Meeting	13 6:30 pm Public Catechism Sr. Choir 7 pm	14 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 7 pm Adult Bible Class	15 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	16 9 am Cards of Caring WORSHIP 7 PM W/ COMMUNION
17 Epiphany 2 WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 9:30 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 10:45 am Bible Class	18 4 pm Ridgeway on 23rd Service	19 4 pm Oak Hills Living Center Service 7 pm Council	20 6:30 pm Public Catechism Sr. Choir 7 pm	21 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 7 pm Adult Bible Class	22 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	23 WORSHIP 7 PM
24 Epiphany 3 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 8 am Gr. K-4 sing 9:30 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 10:45 am Bible Class	25	26	27 6:30 pm Public Catechism Sr. Choir 7 pm	28 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 7 pm Adult Bible Class	29 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class St. John's MVL Night	30 WORSHIP 7 PM
31 Epiphany 4 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 9:30 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 10:45 am Bible Class 11 am Jr. Choir sings	Correspondence Pastor Jeffrey Bovee Pastor Wayne Laitinen Kelly Emde Wendy Lambrecht Jim Dretske Church Office			T.V. Service: Mondays: 6 pm Tuesdays: 1 pm Thursdays: 10 am on Comcast Channel 14 NU Telecom Channel 3		