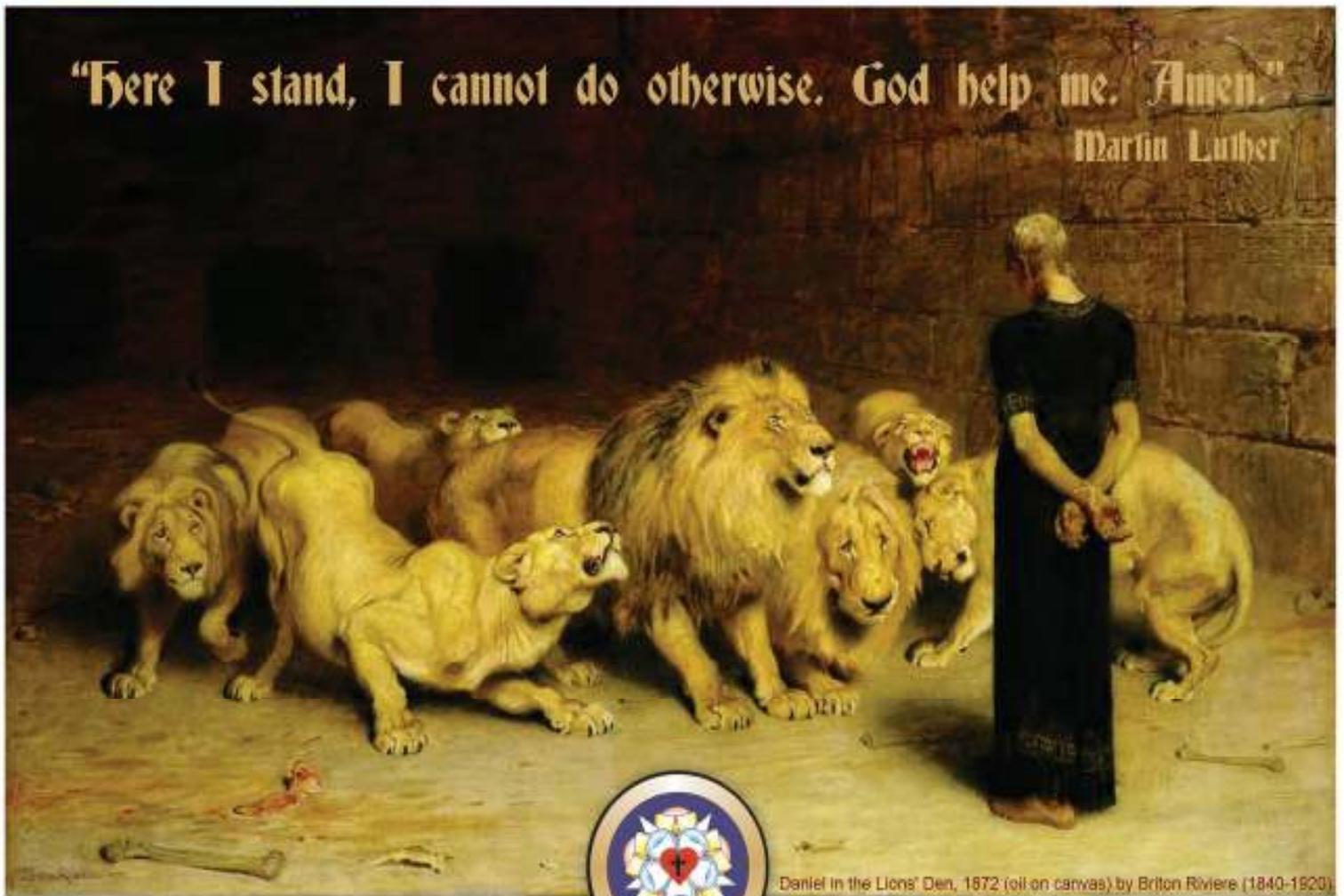


"Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

Martin Luther



Daniel in the Lions' Den, 1672 (oil on canvas) by Briton Riviere (1840-1920)



Reformation

October 31 & November 1, 2020



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
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 **YouTube**

Type in Search: St Johns
Lutheran Church New Ulm MN

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.

Reformation Sunday **October 31/November 1, 2020**

Prayer before worship: Lord, as we come before you in humble worship, accept our prayers, hymns, offerings, and praises. Through your Word and Sacrament strengthen and encourage us so that we will ever hold fast to the truth of your Word, teach it, preach it, and believe it. Cause us to confess your name and to remember the great central truths of the Reformation celebration: By faith alone, by grace alone, and by Scripture alone. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CW 200

1. A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That has us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.
2. With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord. And there's no other God;
He holds the field forever.
3. Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
One little word can fell him.
4. The Word they still shall let remain, Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will—Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—
Though all may be gone, Our victory is won;
The kingdom's ours forever!

Please stand

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: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

♪: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

♪: **Christ, have mercy.**

P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

♪: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

♪: **Amen.**

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

♪: **O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.

You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit; you make us pure and holy in your sight.

You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us;

you made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

P: Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪: **Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who

prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands--in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king

Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue

you from the lions?" Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because

I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And

when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 46

See page 9

SECOND LESSON

Galatians 5:1-6

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets

himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ

Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

VERSE of the DAY

♪: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Please stand

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 10:16-23

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as

witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will

rebel against their parents and have them put to death. All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN of the DAY

In Trembling Hands, Lord God, We Hold

CW 199

1. In trembling hands, Lord God, we hold Our heritage, your gift of grace,
Your gospel, bringing wealth untold: All blessings here, in heav'n a place.
2. "In trembling hands"—for how could we Retain your gift by our own pow'r?
The pearl of priceless worth would be Soon lost—attend us ev'ry hour!
3. "In trembling hands"—with joyous awe, Like Luther, we behold your Son:
For us he kept your holy law, In dying full salvation won.
4. "In trembling hands"—and yet we cling With grip of steel, which you must give,
To Christ, our all, our ev'rything, To Christ, the life in whom we live.

5. "In trembling hands"—the treasure won We only hold through Scripture, Lord.
Then keep us all, till life is done, As people trembling at your Word.
6. "In trembling hands"—if it be so, How can our hearts remain unstirred
While millions still in tatters go Nor yet of wealth in Christ have heard?
7. In trembling hands, Lord God, we hold Our heritage; now give us hands
That gladly share your heav'nly gold With needy souls in many lands!

SERMON

Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

YOUR GOD WHOM YOU SERVE CONTINUALLY WILL RESCUE YOU

- 1. STAND FIRMLY ON HIS WORD**
- 2. SUBMIT HUMBLY TO HIS WILL**

Please stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

P: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

P: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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 ever. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

♪: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

♪: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

♪: **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory. You are my God, and I will exalt you.**

I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

♪: **Amen.**

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Salvation unto Us Has Come

CW 390

1. Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor.
Good works cannot avert our doom; They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is the one Redeemer.
2. What God does in his law demand And none to him can render,
Brings wrath and woe on ev'ry hand For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the law requires,
And lost is our condition.
3. It is a false, misleading dream That God his law has given
That sinners can themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.
The law is but a mirror bright To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.
4. Yet as the law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the law obeyed And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.
5. Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my life indeed,
For you have paid my ransom.
6. All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by his grace—All glory to his merit!
O Triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed your saving love;
Your blessed name be hallowed!

Please stand

♪: **Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ryone what he has done.**

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, 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.**

† † †

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Craig Hirschmann



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.



God is our refuge and strength,*
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way*
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam*
and the mountains quake with their surging.

Refrain

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,*
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;*
God will help her at break of day.

“Be still, and know that I am God;*
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”

**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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 285.

Joined in Marriage ~ Joined in the bonds of marriage are Samantha Kowalke and Zachary Olson at St. John's, New Ulm on Saturday, October 31. We pray for God's blessings on this couple as they begin their new lives together, and ask that God would grant them joy and contentment as husband and wife. May they build this relationship on the foundation of Christ all their days.

Benevolence Fund ~ Dear saints, as you may know, St. John's has a benevolence fund to help those of our fellow members who encounter a special financial need, to be disbursed by the elders. Two such cases have come to the elders' attention right now, and the need is ongoing. If you have a desire to help defray some of the costs of these fellow members in need (in any amount), please leave your offering in an envelope marked "Benevolence Fund" in the drop box at church or mail it to St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, 56073 with "Benevolence Fund" indicated on the check or envelope. Thank you, saints, for your care for one another!

Bookkeeper Position ~ After years of faithful service to St. John's, Wendy Lambrecht, our bookkeeper, has decided to seek other employment. Much of what Wendy has done for St. John's has not been visible to our members, but she has made a significant contribution to the smooth operation of our finances. We thank Wendy and wish her God's blessings in the years to come. With Wendy's resignation, St. John's is now accepting applications for the bookkeeper position, which is a part-time position (20-25 hours/week). Interested individuals are encouraged to pick up a job description and an application at the church office. For more information, please contact Pastor Guenther, our administrative pastor.

In-Person Bible Classes ~ Given the limitations of our St. John's campus facilities, pandemic guidelines prevents adult Bible class from being held on Sunday mornings, but expanded Thursday options will be offered. Pastor Guenther will lead a study of the book of Revelation at 10:30 am and Pastor Bovee will have the topic of Angels at 7 pm. After six weeks, they will present the same topics in the opposite time slots. The in-person class will be held in the basement or join the class online at bit.ly/StJohnsBibleClass.

Church Calendar ~ the up-to-date church calendar can be found on our website: stjohnsnewulm.com/calendar.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

MLC Ladies' Auxiliary ~ Take home copies of the MLC Ladies Auxiliary List of New Projects for 2020-2021 are available in the narthex.

Book Available ~ A new commentary on the Book of Job is available at St. Paul's Lutheran Church office. The cost is \$10. Written by Pastor Tim Smith, there are 60 copies available; first come, first serve.

Holiday Canvass ~ Join us for a walking canvass! On November 14th from 10 am - 12 pm. We will walk through New Ulm neighborhoods, going door-to-door to hang our Thanksgiving/Christmas information on as many doorknobs as possible. No ringing any bells. No knocking. The goal is simply to reach as many homes as possible. Meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 10 am. Grab hot chocolate/cider and a snack at the end!

Volunteers Needed ~ Treasure Haus is looking for a few new volunteers. If you have any spare time please consider helping us out. If interested, please call the store and speak with a manager.

MVL Announcements ~ The *Spirit of MVL Recognition Reception and Gala* are combining and going virtual with the fitting theme *Together in Spirit*. Please join us online on Saturday, November 21, 7 - 8 pm! We'll be honoring the 2020 Spirit of MVL award recipients, John Apitz, Lynn & Dan Hacker, and Fred & Joy Struck; auctioning awesome items; and raising funds for our livestream technology project and the Partnership Fund. Virtual door prizes and the Appeal to the Heart open Thursday, November 19. Registration opens soon! Please contact Kristin Matzke for questions at kmatzke@mvlhs.org or 507-233-8662. The *annual Christmas wreath and greenery sales* are going digital this year. Visit mvlwreaths.givesmart.com to place your order, or call the MVL office at 507-354-6851. Orders must be placed by Sunday, November 15 in order to pick-up at your church before Thanksgiving. Not only will you get to enjoy the scents of Christmas, but you'll also be helping fund the purchase of new hymnals for students to use in chapel! MVL will not be hosting our annual *Veterans Recognition Program* this November. We certainly thank God for our veterans and active-duty military and the service that they have given for our country. We pray that God would bless and keep you, and we look forward to reconnecting with you next year. Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School seeks 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.

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About the Cover ~ This painting by British artist Briton Riviere of Huguenot descent (1890), depicts Daniel in the lion's den. Briton actually had a dead lioness in his studio as a model.

The prophet Daniel refused to bow to any god except the true and living God. Even though he was threatened with death he refused to compromise his faith in the LORD. He stood firmly on God's Word even when thrown into the lions' den. But God delivered him.

Over two-thousand years later, another servant of God would be put on trial for upholding the truth of God's Word. Also threatened with death, Martin Luther stood firmly on the truth which the Bible clearly taught, and God delivered him also.

Today as we celebrate the Reformation we too are encouraged to stand on God's Word. We will be confronted with opposition and even persecution. However, we can be sure that God will always deliver us, even if it means being martyred for the sake of his name to honor him.