

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

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Welcome to St. John's!

627 S. Washington St.
www.stjohnsnewulm.com

Worship Times

Saturdays: 7 pm
Sundays: 8 & 9:30 am

Contact Us

Phone: 507-354-6744
Fax: 507-354-7455

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



Emptying the Ocean into a Dixie Cup

Since the Middle Ages, there has been a legend about St. Augustine (A.D 354 - 430). As he was walking along the seashore he came across a boy who had dug a hole in the sand. He watched carefully as the lad ran to the sea, scooped up water with a shell and ran back to pour its contents into his newly-constructed reservoir.

"What are you doing?" Augustine asked.

"I'm emptying the ocean into this hole" the boy replied.

"How do you expect to get such a huge ocean into such a small hole?"

As he was walking away, it dawned on St. Augustine that he was involved in the same kind of far-fetched folly. At that time in his life, St. Augustine was trying to funnel the limitless mystery of the Triune God into his thimble-sized brain.

I could understand the Trinity if you told me that the one God is divided into thirds. But that's not what God says. I could understand Him if you told me that there is only one person and he changes masks when He wishes to play-act one of the other two persons of the Trinity. But that's wrong, too. What God is asking me to believe is that all the fullness of the godhead is in each of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Yet there are not three gods, but one God. Since "three equals one" is a mathematical impossibility, it is impossible to drain the ocean of God's person into my puddle-sized cranium.

But that is comforting in a strange sort of way.

I can understand Allah. Allah has no son. There is no Holy Spirit in Allah, either. "One equals one" makes complete sense to me. In fact, were I to invent a religion of my own, its god would look very much like Allah...someone whom I can understand and every human mind can comprehend without divine revelation, the Bible or faith.

Since my newly-minted god sprang from my mind, he is not substantially different from the golden calf that sprang from the minds of those idolatrous ancients. Since I am the inventor of my god, I am his creator and he is my creation. I am greater and he is less. I have eyes, ears and a brain that actually function. Those of my creation are merely cosmetic.

The greatest mystery of all is that each of the three persons of the Trinity is so intimately focused on the rescue of His fallen creatures! The god that springs from the human mind is invariably logical in another sense: he rewards those who do good and punishes those who disobey him. My boss does this. So do my parents, teachers and civil authorities. And understandably so. This is the only way to keep order in our world. But the god of punishment and rewards leaves us alone with our ledger of sins and destitute of confidence in the hereafter. I am told that Allah has 99 names. Not one of them is "Love." The god who "makes sense" cannot offer a drop of comfort.

Continued on page 2

What is beyond our ken is a Father who demands human life for the everlasting punishment we have coming. However, instead of punishing the perpetrators, He sends his obedient Son to the scaffold so suffer for a race of rebels such as we! And since this grace is something we neither have desired nor deserved, the Father and the Son send out the Holy Spirit to tell us what we would never have been able to discover for ourselves: Jesus died and rose FOR ME.

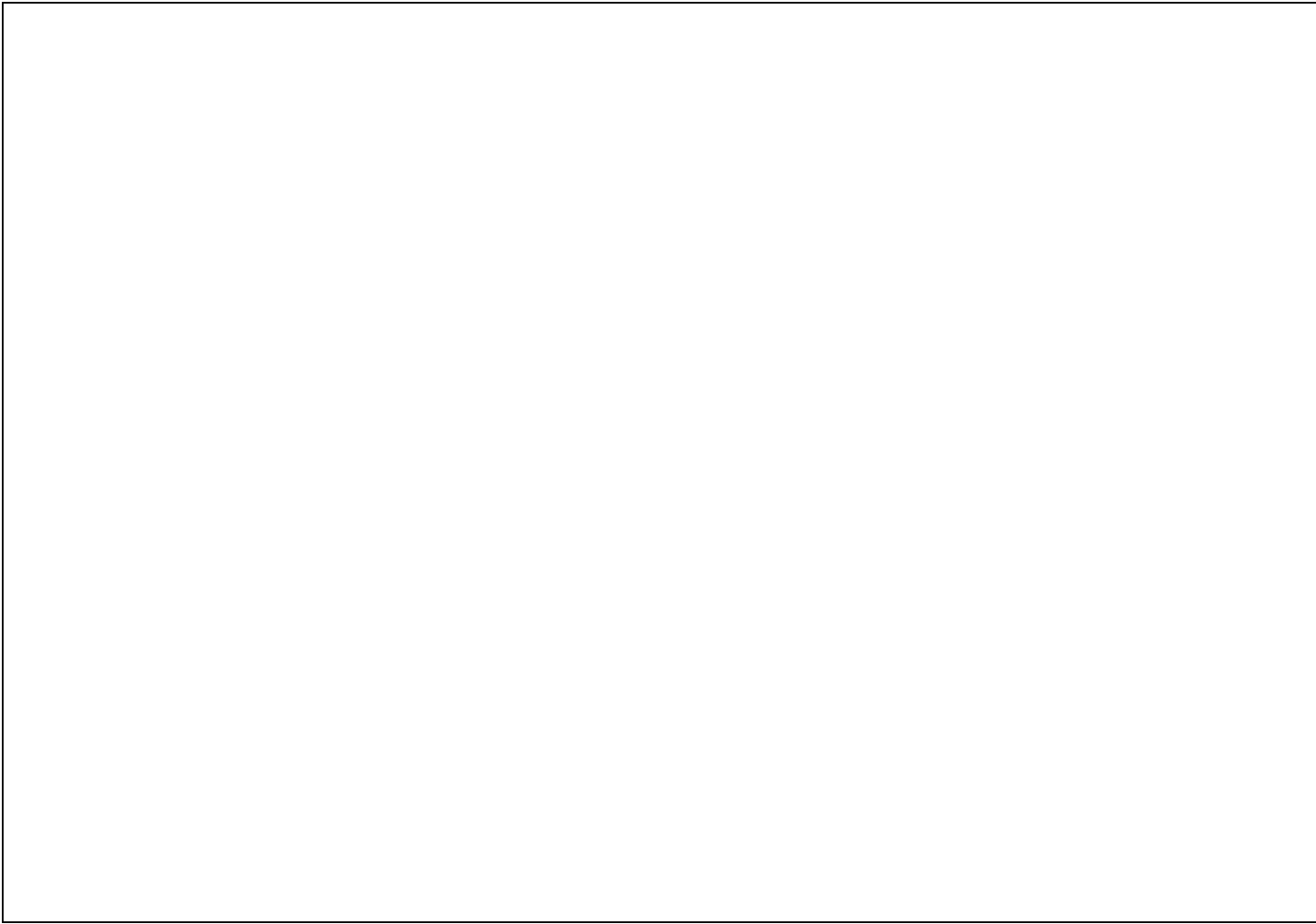
If the person of God is a mystery that can only be taken in by Spirit-given faith, the greatest mystery of all is that he loved us while we were still his enemies and sent Jesus, his Son, to be our Savior. In baptism he enfolded us in his arms and brought us into his kingdom of grace!

Your Servant in Christ,



Happy Birthday!

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Gina Bases
Jonathan Haase
Ashley Marks
Gerald Marks
Gloria Patterson
Jane Spoon | 14 Isaac Alvarez
Ruth Aufderheide
Arnold Enter
Carolyn Kramer
Masen Weisensel | 24 Christian Enter
Hunter Sehr
Rita Walters |
| 3 Kincaid Diersen | 15 Heather Johnson
Mary Jo Johnson | 25 Tim Reinke |
| 4 Lisa Hunter
Lolli Paulsen | 16 Daniel Borgwardt
Weston Frank
Jennifer Krause | 26 Caroline Carmichael
Courtney Hammerschmidt
Travis Konakowitz
Tara Marks |
| 5 Karson Hanevik | 17 Laura Fischer
Greg Fluegge
Jesse Zahrt | 27 Mary Enter |
| 6 Jacob Biesterfeld
Jerome Plagge
Erika Strackbein | 18 Janice Lammers | 28 Elizabeth Haase
Courtney Steinhauser
Josiah Stoering |
| 7 Sarah Schroeder | 19 Alex Gutzke
Dorothy Klockziem
Laura Nolte | 29 Sylvia Barnes |
| 8 Marshall Mohror | | 30 Kristen Hanevik
LeRoy Knoll
Jessica Kraker
LeiLani Rahn |
| 9 Madison Dauer
Jaden Domeier
Matthew Kitzberger
Carla Melendy | 21 Charles Enter
Seth Fenske
Brandon Forst
Wendy Grob
Daniel Schwartz | |
| 10 Susan Haar
Megan Jewison
Erin Rubie | 22 Ronald Bentz
Kristin Dinse
Jonah Hermanson
Robert Mielke
Jacob Schmidt
Carter Wels
James Wieland | |
| 11 Sharon Heck
Kaydra Schroeder
Sandra Sorheim | 23 Dylan Borchert
Caleb Dinse | |
| 12 Roger Klockziem
Ashley More
Elizabeth Strackbein | | |
| 13 Tamara Pehling
Jeana Schroeder
Keith Wessel | | |



Music for Missions Concert VII	June Offering Envelope
<p>All are invited to attend a concert to be held at the Martin Luther College Auditorium on Wednesday, June 8, at 7 pm.</p> <p>Local Christian musicians will be featured, along with Ms. Coral Cady, a former St. Paul’s, New Ulm, teacher, now working with Kingdom Workers in Asian missions. Ben and Joe Lundsten will share details from their Southeast Asian mission trip. Refreshments will follow “under the stars.” This event is sponsored by your Minnesota Valley Regional Mission Team of Kingdom Workers.</p>	<p>The Martin Luther College Ladies Auxiliary exists to support and enhance student life at MLC here in New Ulm, MN. Their purpose is to promote greater interest in MLC, promote Christian fellowship among women of WELS and those in Synodical fellowship, give financial support to MLC by supplying funds for needed projects which are not included in the Synod budget and to support MLC and its students through prayer.</p>

Your Synod at Work

Called to Serve

Last month we highlighted the 2015 WELS Annual Report on “Called to Proclaim.” This month we will take a look at the section “Called to Serve.”

The section begins with a discussion of the floods in Malawi that destroyed the homes of many families of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa—Malawi. Initial aid included supplies for temporary housing. The floods had also washed away the families’ crops, so Christian Aid and Relief worked to distribute maize (the staple food of Malawi) to many families in 21 different areas. National pastors oversaw the distribution and conducted devotions and prayers with the families receiving the donations.

The WELS also provides congregation and ministry support in a number of areas. We will touch on a few areas of that support.

One area consists of worship support. *Preach the Word* is a publication for pastors and a new series on preaching to Millennials was begun. Sixty pastors, teachers, and laypeople are currently volunteering their time to work on the Hymnal Project. The project is deciding on actual content—lectionary, hymns, psalms, and liturgies.

In the area of adult discipleship, work continues to coordinate the online interactive Faith Bible studies series. Classes were held last year on the prophet Elisha and the book of Judges. Marriage enrichment retreats continue to be offered across the country. Adult Discipleship also works with congregations to link the work of its WELS Women’s Ministry Committee to the people it serves.

WELS is, of course, involved with evangelism. Evangelism’s Daily Devotions are sent to nearly 10,000 e-mail subscribers and are also available through the WELS Mobile App. Online Evangelism courses are offered by the Commission on Evangelism through Martin Luther College’s online continuing education program. The courses are designed to help called workers and laypeople plan and implement efforts to reach more people with the gospel.

Youth and Family Ministry continues to produce the popular *Kids’ Connection* video series, which is viewed in WELS elementary and Sunday schools.

Gerald Woodley

From Your Staff Minister

In August and September, we will have Lifetouch at the church to take pictures for a pictorial directory. You will be contacted via telephone to set up an appointment. We will have a laptop(s) in the narthex to electronically schedule your appointment on certain weekends and a signup sheet on weekends without the laptop(s). Assistance will be provided when needed. The dates for the photo sessions are August 2-6, August 16-18 and September 6-7.

Vacation Bible School dates have been finalized. They are July 19-21. It will be for children who are four years old to going into 6th grade. For those who would like to assist with VBS we are looking for those going into 7th grade and older.

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." (Mk 4:26-29)

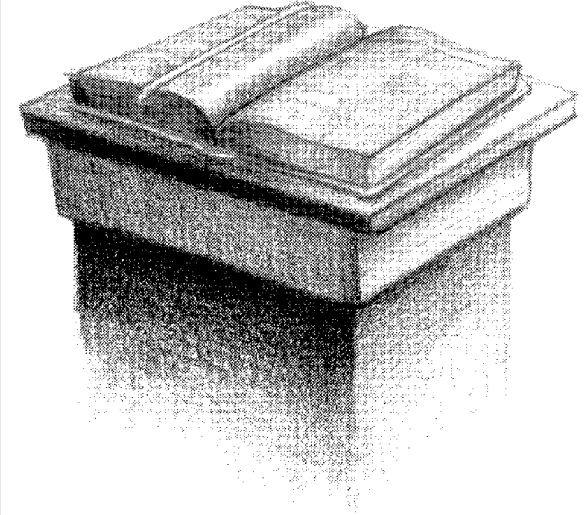
Kelly Emde

<div>St. Paul’s Lutheran School</div> <div><div><div>BoCD Work</div><div>(SP Board of Child Discipleship)</div><div>Playground Equipment</div><div>Portions of the southernmost portion of playground equipment will be moved to make room for the new roadway between St. Paul’s and Jefferson schools. The current playground west of the school will remain for another year with the hopes to make it safe for children’s use during the 2016-17 school year, then be replaced using funds collected for playground and additional funds as part of the whole Building Expansion project for the following year.</div></div><div><div>Building Project</div><div>The shared road project was approved following changes accepted in regard to the project suggested by Attorney Bob Hinnenthal. Construction will begin in late June. The SP Council met in regard to a bid for the handicapped bathrooms on both the first and second floors of the school’s southern hallways. The construction of the bathrooms will affect the Summer Care Program. The hope is that the program can still function for most of the summer. There is a set of priority solutions to the problems incurred by the construction. The first priority would be to have the Summer Care continue at school with minimal interruption on days that demolition of walls may conflict with having children in the building. A second option will be to hold the program at St. Paul’s Church. This would be temporary until a time that the program can return to the school.</div></div><div><div>New Call</div><div>Mr. Schleusener just received a Call to Great Plains Lutheran High School in Watertown, SD, to teach in the areas of social studies and phy-ed. His duties would include the head football coach position. Please keep Mr. Schleusener and his family in your prayers as he deliberates between his present call at St. Paul’s and the one he received from the Great Plains Lutheran High School.</div></div></div> <div><div>MNSAA</div><div>St. Paul’s earned its MNSAA accreditation in 2011-12. The seven-year cycle followed by MNSAA schools means that we will need to renew accreditation in 2018. Mr. Thiesfeldt attended a May 6 workshop hosted by MNSAA which reviewed the accreditation process. A two-year timeline for renewal will begin this summer and fall with the following steps:<div><div>Summer 2016</div><div><div>a) Establish a steering committee</div><div>b) Communicant the accreditation process to the school community</div><div>c) File letter of intent to MNSAA office</div></div><div>Fall 2016</div><div><div>a) Establish sub-committees</div><div>b) Begin school profile work by developing a school survey</div></div><div>Winter 2016</div><div><div>a) Hold a discernment event with stakeholders and/or governing board and faculty to discuss mission and philosophy (Stand 1)</div><div>b) Begin sub-committee (Standards 2-6)</div><div>c) Collect school survey data</div><div>d) Secure a MNSAA visit team chair through MNSAA</div></div></div><div><div>Calendar</div><div><div>Aug 4Registration with School Pictures</div><div>Aug 30School Begins: 8:30 am Opening Service</div></div><div>School’s website: www.splnewulm.org/school</div><div>Respectfully submitted, James L. Dretske, Administrative Teacher: jdretske@splnewulm.org</div></div></div></div> <div><div>Women’s Summer Devotions</div><div><div>The Friday morning women’s Bible study group invites all women and moms to join them during the summer months for devotions in the park. We meet at 10 am at the listed park and read a devotion followed by free play and a picnic lunch (optional). Feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions please contact Sarah Strackbein at 612-361-0425.</div><div><div>June 3</div><div>Riverside Park</div><div>10</div><div>North Market Park</div><div>17</div><div>Washington Park</div><div>24</div><div>North Park</div></div></div></div>
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<div>Central Africa Medical Mission</div> <div><div>Lutheran Mobile Clinic</div><div>May 2016</div></div> <div><div>“Malungo alipo. Pepani! Mupite kwa adocotala mkati.” I feel like I’ve said this a million times this month while helping with the malaria testing at clinic. For those of you who don’t speak Chichewa this translates to “You have malaria. Sorry. You need to go and see the doctor inside.”</div><div>In April, our clinic days have been incredibly long and hard, seeing as many as 3,145 people for malaria alone—not including any other sick patients!! This is the most malaria cases LMC has seen in one month since I arrived in January 2015. Compared to April 2015, this April we saw an increase of over 1,000 patients with confirmed malaria, a 42% increase. Part of this increase is because the Malawian government hospitals have run out of malaria test kits and LA, the standard medication for malaria. Since the government health facilities do not have the basics, they must go to private facilities, and in rural locations, options are very limited. By the Grace of God, we are able to serve four of these rural areas and have been able to handle almost all of the extra patients.</div><div>Unfortunately, the government shortage of malaria test kits and LA means that we aren’t able to procure our supplies, free of charge, as we typically do, from the government. As a result, I have to travel to local pharmacies to buy them. There are three huge issues regarding the purchasing of these two essential supplies. The first is that the government supplies, donated by USAID (US government) are</div></div>		<div>checked for quality. Unfortunately, the medication sold in local pharmacies is not. This means we have to pray that the medication has the correct amount of medication per tablet, in order for it to be effective. The second issue is cost. LMC received all of our malaria test kits and LA from the government in 2015. April was the first month I’ve had to purchase from pharmacies. Each malaria test kit is approximately \$1.50 and a dose of LA ranges from \$0.50 to \$2.00. Due to the high volume of patients seen, I spent \$4,375 on malaria medication and test kits and we still had to turn some patients away because we ran out. Since we charge only a nominal fee for our services—a child can be seen for \$0.10 and \$0.25 for an adult—we rely heavily on these free government supplies to manage costs. Needing to buy such high volumes of these items to keep up with an exceptionally high number of cases creates challenges. Lastly, this national shortage of both LA and test kits is not limited to just the government and the facilities it supplies. When I have purchased test kits and LA, there have been times that I have bought out the pharmacy of their entire supply! If neither the government nor the private pharmacies are able to keep up with the demand, the consequences will be unnecessarily fatal to many Malawians who contract this treatable illness.</div> <div>When thinking about such hardships facing the Malawian healthcare system, I feel so small and inadequate. But then I remember, the Lord is BIG and can do BIG things. God’s power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor. 12: 9). I have to remind myself that we are his tools and that he will provide. He alone is the saving grace. Our heavenly Father knows</div>	<div>everything we need (Matthew 6: 32) and he will supply for us every need through Christ Jesus (Phillipians 4:19).</div> <div>Thankfully, right now, Lutheran Mobile Clinic has the resources to buy malaria rapid tests and LA; however, if the number of cases don’t decrease and the government isn’t able to solve the national shortage of malaria rapid tests and LA, we will face some significant challenges in our budget and our ability to serve those who need life saving treatment.</div> <div>Please keep Malawi, Lutheran Mobile Clinic, and those we are serving in your thoughts and prayers. We know that if we ask, it will be given, if we seek, we will find, and if we knock, it will be opened to us (Matthew 7:7) and that whatever we ask in prayer, we will receive if we have faith (Matthew 21:22). So please join me in lifting this situation in prayer to Him who can do more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3: 20).</div> <div>Yours Sister in Christ, Amanda Oswalt (Nurse in Charge – Lutheran Mobile Clinic)</div>
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June Sermon Texts

June 5	Luke 7:11-17	The Day Life and Death Met in Beauty
June 12	Luke 7:36-50	Who Is This Who Even Forgives Sins?
June 19	Luke 9:18-24	Commit Your Life to the Lord
June 26	Luke 9:51-62	Lord, I Will Follow You



Pictorial Directory

Our church will be producing a new pictorial directory with Lifetouch. Our photo dates are:

- August 2 - 5 from 2 - 9 pm
- August 16 - 18 from 2 - 9 pm
- August 6 from 9 am - 4 pm
- September 6 - 7 from 2 - 9 pm

All photography will take place in the church basement on the above dates for your convenience.

You will receive a complimentary portrait session, 8x10 portrait, and directory for participating. If you would like to bring in a personal item to photograph with such as sporting equipment, an instrument, a medal, jewelry, a Bible or pet that is encouraged and will be incorporated into your portrait session.

Should you know anyone that has or would like to attend our church, every family is welcome to invite others at this special time and they too will receive the benefits of the portrait session.

Go to www.appt.lifetouch.com to sign up for your session.

Church Service on T.V.

Mondays: 6 pm
Tuesdays: 1 pm
Thursdays: 10 am
on
Comcast Channel 14
NU Telecom Channel 3

Council Digest - May 2016

- **Membership Changes**
Transfers Out
Kyara Koepsell to St. Paul's, New Ulm, MN
Transfers In
Micah Nabor from Calvary, Chandler, AZ
Adult Confirmation
John and Lynda Bauer
- **Pastoral Acts**
Funeral
3 May Elta Buboltz
7 May Elvia Jacobs
- Pastor Laitinen announced his intentions to retire at the end of the calendar year. The Board of Elders was assigned the task of making preparations for the extension of a call to secure a pastoral replacement beginning with the October voters' meeting. We pray that God would continue to bless Pastor Laitinen as he continues to serve St. John's over the next seven months and as he and Carol begin the transition to retirement.
- Steps to audit the congregation's financial records for 2015 were initiated with a goal of having a report available at the July voters' meeting.

- Vice President Gerald Woodley noted that a large number of council positions will be vacated at the end of the year as terms of office expire. He reviewed the nominating process in preparation for the voters' election meeting in October and asked members of the nominating committee to begin the identification of potential candidates who might serve as members of congregational boards or committees.
- The council approved participation in the Martin Luther College Congregational Partnership Grant program and authorized the transfer of estate funds in the amount of \$1,000 as the congregation's contribution to the program. MLC will match that contribution on behalf of any freshmen from St. John's who enroll at the college and use it to award one or more scholarships for the 2016-17 school year.
- The Board of Elders has arranged with our pastors to conduct a Bible study series on the doctrine of fellowship on Sundays during the month of June at 11:00 am with special application to the fellowship policy in place at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School.
- The annual joint outdoor worship service at German Park co-sponsored by St. John's and St. Paul's will be held on Saturday, July 9, at 6:30 pm.

Archives

Miscellany

Like previous months, some more items from service bulletins, newsletters and council and congregational minutes from 60, 50, 25, 10, and 1 years ago. Hope you will find them interesting. Comments, questions, suggestions and even corrections are welcome (kruegerh@mlc-wels.edu).

1956 Pastor was Rollin Reim. May: A report on the quarterly meeting (April) notes that the increasing size of the congregation makes it difficult for the church council to attend to all the phases of parish work and that the establishment of a board of three elders is beings considered. This work, special attention to spiritual matters, had been covered by the trustees. This would also require a change to the by-laws.

1966 Pastor was Frederick Nitz. The “Building for His Habitation” year continued and was the primary subject reported on in the service folders. Volunteers were called for to help move and store many of the church furnishings during construction. Volunteers were also sought to help paint the trim on the parsonage.

1991 Pastors were Norval Kock and David Kolander (as of Aug); David Zabel was Director of Christian Education. There were various requests for volunteer

help during the year: in February to check and repair hymnals, for “all available hands” for the annual kitchen cleaning (Feb.), and in July a note that the parsonage will be shingled with volunteer labor along with hope for special donations to cover the cost of the shingles.

2006 Pastors were Jeffrey Bovee and Wayne Laitinen; Administrative Teacher was James Dretske. Business during the year involved the selling of the house at 605 S Washington for removal to provide parking space. No buyer had been found as of November and the house was rented for temporary use to a MLC student for the cost of the utilities. Staff Minister David Stuht completed his internship and was succeeded by Sheila Pottorff. Prof. Bob Potratz replaced Prof. Wayne Wagner as choir Director in September.

2015 Pastors were Jeffrey Bovee and Wayne Laitinen; Administrative Teacher was James Dretske. Board for Evangelism reports during the year reported working on greater ways to communicate and a new website using social media. The March Council meeting included a detailed proposal for updating the video camera and display system.

To be continued.

Bob Krueger
kruegerh@mlc-wels.edu

The meeting was called to order by our president. The secretary’s report was given and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$480.74. Our second quarter project donation will go to Christian Aid and Relief. The president reminded those who had not voted for the National LWMS officers and projects to place their ballot in the basket provided. St. John’s will host the spring meeting of the MLC Auxiliary in 2017. Two birthday hymns were sung for those having May birthdays.

Our June meeting will be a picnic at Lincoln Park on Tuesday, June 7th, at 6 pm. Members are asked to bring a sack lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Ruth Aufderheide volunteered to assist with the serving.

Lunch was served by Jeneane Thiesfeldt and Lois Willems.

Eleanor Runke, Secretary

6 St. John’s Lutheran Church

St. John’s Ev. Lutheran Church					JUNE 2016	
New ULM, MN 56073					354-6744	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
T.V. Service: Mondays: 6 pm Tuesdays: 1 pm Thursdays: 10 am on Comcast Channel 14 NU Telecom Channel 3			1 11 amStory Time	2 1 pmWorship Committee	3	4 WORSHIP 7 PM W/ COMMUNION
5 Pentecost 3 WORSHIP 8 & 9:30 AM W/ COMMUNION 11 amFellowship Bible Class	6 7 pmTrustees	7 Pastor/Teacher Lay Delegate Conference in Redwood Falls 6 pmWomen of St. John’s Picnic at Lincoln Park	8 11 amStory Time	9	10 10 amWomen’s Devotions in the Park, North Market Park	11 WORSHIP 7 PM
12 Pentecost 4 WORSHIP 8 & 9:30 AM 11 amFellowship Bible Class	13 10 amPastors’ Circuit Meeting at St. Paul’s	14 <div>MN District Convention, MLC</div> 4 pmOak Hills Living Center Service	15	16	17 10 amWomen’s Devotions in the Park, Washington Park	18 WORSHIP 7 PM W/ COMMUNION
19 Pentecost 5 WORSHIP 8 & 9:30 AM W/ COMMUNION 11 amFellowship Bible Class (if necessary)	20 4 pmRidgeway on 23rd Service 6:30 pmElders	21 4 pmOak Hills Living Center Service 7 pmCouncil	22 11 amStory Time	23	24 10 amWomen’s Devotions in the Park, North Park	25 WORSHIP 7 PM
26 Pentecost 6 WORSHIP 8 & 9:30 AM 11 amFellowship Bible Class (if necessary)	27 6:30 pmMVL Association Meeting	28	29 11 amStory Time	30		
Correspondence Pastor Jeffrey Bovee revbovee@gmail.com Pastor Wayne Laitinen wayne.laitinen@gmail.com Staff Minister Kelly Emde kremde@comcast.net Church Office stjohsnewulm@gmail.com Wendy Lambrecht wlambrecht@newulmtel.net Jim Dretske jdretske@splnewulm.org				Looking Ahead July 2 Rubie/Hansen Wedding July 8 Koelpin/Horn Wedding July 9 Service in the Park, German Park at 6:30 pm July 19-21 Vacation Bible School: 9 - 11:30 am July 26 Quarterly Voters’ Meeting Aug 2-6 Pictorial Directory Pictures taken in church basement Aug 4 St. Paul’s School Registration Day Aug 26-28 Pictorial Directory Pictures taken in church basement Aug 20/21 Fall Schedule Begins (add 11 am)		