

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



**"The kingdom of heaven is like a man
who sowed good seed in his field. But
while everyone was sleeping, his
enemy came and sowed weeds
among the wheat, and went away."
Matthew 13:24-25**

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 1/2, 2020

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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am
Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost **August 1/2, 2020**

Prayer before worship: Heavenly Father, as we live as wheat among weeds (believers among unbelievers) forgive us for the times that we've acted like the weeds. Thank you for not pulling us up and throwing us in the fire as our sins deserve. Help us to grow in our faith as we wait patiently for the final harvest of Judgment Day when you will gather us to be with you. Help us to share our faith with others that, by your grace, more weeds may become wheat. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Saturday: The soloists will sing all hymns and musical notations (♪).

OPENING HYMN

To Your Temple I Draw Near

CW 226
See page 7

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.

C: 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.

C: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: 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. Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

Joel 3:12-16

“Let the nations be roused;
let them advance into the Valley
of Jehoshaphat, for there I will
sit to judge all the nations on
every side. Swing the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.
Come, trample the grapes,
for the winepress is full

and the vats overflow—
so great is their wickedness!”
Multitudes, multitudes
in the valley of decision!
For the day of the Lord is near
in the valley of decision. The
sun and moon will be darkened,
and the stars no longer shine.

The Lord will roar from Zion
and thunder from Jerusalem;
the earth and the sky will
tremble. But the Lord will be a
refuge for his people, a
stronghold for the people of
Israel.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 18

*CW p. 69
See page 8*

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:26,27

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the

Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.

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

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds

among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow

good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ “ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

“ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ”

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples

came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled

up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. ”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN of the DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

CW 541

See page 9

SERMON

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

What Do We Do With the Weeds?

- 1. Don't Pull Them Up**
- 2. Patiently Grow with Them**
- 3. Rejoice at the Harvest**

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.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: 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.

C: 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

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

CW 311

See page 10-12

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.

C: 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.

C: Amen.

† † †

**PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST
MUSICIANS**

Pastor Rob Guenther
Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
Craig Hirschmann
John and Bethel Boeder, Marley Kuckhahn



1 To your tem - ple I draw near; Lord, I love to wor - ship here.
 2 I through Christ am rec - on - ciled; I through Christ be - come your child.
 3 While your glo - rious praise is sung, Touch my lips, un - loose my tongue,
 4 While the prayers of saints as - cend, God of love, to mine at - tend.



Here are sac - ra - ment and Word; Here be - liev - ers meet their Lord.
 Ab - ba, Fa - ther, give me grace. In your courts to seek your face.
 That my joy - ful soul may bless Christ the Lord, my right - eous - ness.
 Hear me, for your Spir - it pleads; Hear, for Je - sus in - ter - cedes.



- 5. While I listen to your law,
 Fill my soul with holy awe
 Till your gospel brings to me
 Life and immortality.
- 6. While your ministers proclaim
 Peace and pardon in your name,
 Through their voice, by faith, may I
 Hear you speaking from the sky.
- 7. From your house, when I return,
 May my heart within me burn,
 And at evening let me say,
 "I have walked with God today."

Saturday: soloists will sing the refrain; congregation will speak the verses



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



The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;*
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

He reached down from on high and took hold of me;*
he rescued me from my powerful enemy.

He brought me out into a spacious place;*
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

Refrain

You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;*
my God turns my darkness into light.

You save the humble*
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

You give me your shield of victory,*
and your right hand sustains me.

**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

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, with us a - bide,
 2 O God, how sin's dread works a - bound!
 3 In these last days of sore dis - tress
 4 Lord Je - sus, help, your Church up - hold,

For round us falls the e - ven - tide,
 Through - out the earth no rest is found.
 Grant us, dear Lord, true stead - fast - ness
 For we are slug - gish, thought - less, cold.

Nor let your Word, that heav'n - ly light,
 And false - hood's spir - it wide has spread,
 That pure we keep, till life is spent,
 Oh, pros - per well your Word of grace,

For us be ev - er veiled in night.
 And er - ror bold - ly rears its head.
 Your ho - ly Word and sac - ra - ment.
 And spread its truth in ev - 'ry place.

5. Oh, keep us in your Word, we pray;
 The guile and rage of Satan stay!
 Oh, may your mercy never cease!
 Give concord, patience, courage, peace.

6. The cause is yours, the glory, too,
 So hear us, Lord, and keep us true.
 Your Word alone is our defense,
 The Church's glorious confidence.

7. Oh, grant that in your holy Word
 We here may live and die, dear Lord,
 And when our journey's ending here,
 Receive us into glory there.

1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness;
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him,
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure
 4 Now I kneel be - fore you low - ly,

Leave be - hind all gloom and sad - ness.
 And with lov - ing rev - 'rence greet him,
 Nei - ther cost nor pain will mea - sure,
 Filled with joy most deep and ho - ly,

Come in - to the day - light's splen - dor;
 For with words of life im - mor - tal
 But the price - less gifts of heav - en
 As with tremb - ling awe and won - der

There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
 He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
 God to us has free - ly giv - en.
 On your might - y work I pon - der,

Un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore him,
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered,
 How by mys - ter - y sur - round - ed,

Has this won - drous sup - per found - ed.
 Say - ing, as you there a - dore him:
 Naught would buy the gifts here of - fered:
 Depths that no one ev - er sound - ed.

Though he reigns a - bove most ho - ly,
 Grant, Lord, that I now re - ceive you,
 Christ's true bod - y, for you riv - en,
 None may dare to pierce un - bid - den

Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 That I nev - er - more will leave you.
 And his blood, for you once giv - en.
 Se - crets that with you are hid - en.

5. Human reason, though it ponders,
 Cannot fathom these great wonders,
That Christ's body must be boundless
 Since the souls it feeds are countless,
And that he his blood is giving
 With the wine we are receiving.
These great mysteries unsounded
 Are by God alone expounded.
6. Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You have left your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
To forgo all joy and gladness
 And to shed your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.
7. Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor,
 Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, Joy of my desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring—
At your feet I cry, my Maker:
 Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven
 For our good, your glory, given.
8. Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you,
 Let me gladly here obey you.
By your love I am invited;
 Be your love with love requited.
By this supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace you give me
 As your guest in heav'n receive me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 245.

Fruits of faith given:

\$8,461	Home Operations ~ \$15,346 is our weekly need		
\$706	MVL ~ \$1,163 is our weekly need	\$25	MLC Ladies' Auxiliary
\$709	Missions ~ \$1,714 is our weekly need	\$25	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$888	Building Fund ~ \$1,397 is our weekly need	\$20	WELS Christian Aid & Relief
\$100	Audio/Video Equipment		

Altar Flowers ~ have been given in honor of the 55th wedding anniversary of Richard and Marley Kuckhahn.

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" tix-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 ~ 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.

OWLS ~ The Owls are cancelling for this year our August Outdoor Picnic. See everybody for the picnic next year! We will be conferring on the next months schedule of indoor meetings and will announce them through the church bulletin.

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 ~ *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 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/, or call the St. Paul's church office at 507-354-3641.

Job Openings ~ 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. Jesus Loves Me Learning Center in North Mankato is looking for classroom assistant teachers and aides who have enthusiasm and passion for children, patience and a sense of humor, good communication skills, and are flexible. Please pick up an application from the church office or the Jesus Loves Me office. You may also call 507-345-7707 or email directorjlm@stpaulsnorthmankato.com for an application.

Staff Minister Jim Dretske
Teacher Christine Baganz
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Karen Grunwald
Teacher Emily Stoering
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About the Cover ~ So far it looks like a good growing season. But farmers are waiting patiently for the crop to fully mature before they can harvest it and take it to market. In a similar way, God is waiting patiently for his believers to mature and for more to come to faith. But one day soon the harvest will come when our Savior will gather the wheat into his barns (believers into heaven) and throw the weeds into the fire. May God keep us all growing and maturing in our faith and sharing our faith until the final harvest when he gathers us into his heavenly home!