



The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.

Mark 4:31

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost June 17, 2018

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 S. Washington Street
New Ulm, MN

Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
507-354-6744

St. John's Email
stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 17, 2018

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, you who give seed to the sower and bread to those who eat, and bring from the ground all we need to sustain our lives: Bless us now through your Word and nourish our spirits so that we may grow in faith and bear fruit to your glory in the form of good deeds. Teach us to learn and study your Word, to hear it and teach it to others so that by your Holy Spirit we may ever remain faithful to you and lead others to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We pray these things in his name. Amen.

Order of Service: *Common Service* with Communion page 15

OPENING HYMN

Lord of the Living Harvest

CW559

FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:1-10

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city-- a visit required three days. On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them,

from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call

urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalms 115

CW Supplement p. 55

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 1:3-8

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints-- the faith and love that spring from the hope that is

stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day

you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

VERSE of the DAY

Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia.
- Psalm 132:9

GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

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." Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade." With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

NICENE CREED

p. 18

HYMN of the DAY

Preach You the Word

CW544

SERMON

Mark 4:26-34

Lessons of the Kingdom from the Garden of God

1. The power to grow is in the seed
2. The growth of the seed is powerful

GENERAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT

p. 21

To our worship guests seeking an altar at which to commune: Since the Lord's Supper is an expression of outward unity in the faith as well as inner union with Christ, we ask that those who are not communicant members of our fellowship please schedule a meeting with the pastor before coming to the Lord's Table. We ask this in loving obedience to the Scriptures and not in judgment of anyone's faith, sincerity, or standing before God.

DISTRIBUTION

Thy Strong Word

CW280

HYMNS

Rise, Shine, You People

CW556

† † †

ORGANIST

Barb Hennig

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	11 am	Adult Bible Class
Tue	7 pm	Council Meeting
Fri	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at North Park, 1801 N. State St.
Sat	3 pm	Wedding Rehearsal

† Upcoming Weekend Services †

Saturday: 7 pm
Sunday: 8 & 9:30 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 24	11 am	Adult Bible Class
	3:30 pm	Plocher / Doble Wedding
Jun 25	7 pm	Installation Choir Rehearsal
Jun 26	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Jun 29	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at Nehl's Park, 1100 Summit Ave.
Jul 1	11 am	Adult Bible Class
Jul 2	7 pm	Installation Choir Rehearsal
Jul 4		Church office closed
Jul 8	11 am	Adult Bible Class
	4 pm	Pastor Guenther Installation Service
Jul 9	7 pm	Elders Meeting
Jul 10	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Jul 13	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at Hermann Heights Park, 14 Monument St.
Jul 15	11 am	Adult Bible Class
Jul 17	7 pm	Council Meeting
Jul 18	5:15 pm	St. Paul's Church Family Night at St. Paul's Church
Jul 20	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at South Park, 1800 S. State St.
Jul 21	9 am	Basement Reserved
Jul 22	11 am	Adult Bible Class
Jul 24	9 am	Vacation Bible School
	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Quarterly Voters' Meeting
Jul 25	9 am	Vacation Bible School
Jul 26	9 am	Vacation Bible School
Jul 27	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at German Park, 200 N. German St.
Jul 29	11 am	Adult Bible Class
Aug 1	5:15 pm	St. Paul's Church Family Night at St. Paul's Church
Aug 3	10 am	Women's Summer Devotions at Hermann Heights Park, 14 Monument St.
Aug 5	11 am	Adult Bible Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 373.

Fruits of faith given:

\$7,708	Home Operations ~ \$14,532 is our weekly need		
\$760	MVL ~ \$1,118 is our weekly need	\$475	Moving Expense
\$1,812	Missions ~ \$1,648 is our weekly need	\$68	Endowment Fund
\$1,074	Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need	\$5	Prison Ministry

Installation for Pastor Guenther ~ will be Sunday, July 8 at 4 pm with a fellowship meal to follow. Please RSVP if you are intending to attend the meal by either signing up on the sheet in the gathering space, calling the St. John office, or responding to the email that you will receive soon from St. John's. **Help is needed** for set up, food prep, serving, and clean up/take down - please sign the appropriate sheets in the gathering space if you are able to help in any of these areas. Men are encouraged to sign up, too! **A cash collection is being gathered** to fill the pantry for the Guenthers and provide other necessities for their home. You are invited to include donations in the offering plate with your check or envelope labeled "Guenther." Donation deadline is Sunday, July 1.

Flowers on the Altar ~ have been given to the glory of God for the blessing of 40 years of marriage for Wayne and Carol Laitinen.

Needed for Vacation Bible School (VBS) ~ Fiberfill is needed to stuff pillows for a VBS project this year. Donations of odds and ends of new fiberfill or quilt batting would be wonderful. We also could use some help with fabric cutting to be prepped for this event. St. John's Vacation Bible School is planned for July 24-26. Registration details will be out soon. We are also looking for teachers and aides. Contact Karen Grunwald for details at 507-217-6229.

Volunteers Needed ~ St. John's is responsible for staffing the food shelf in July. Volunteers are needed. Norreen Ubel is the contact at 354-8661.

Summer Bible Class ~ The summer Bible class takes place following the 9:30 service on Sunday mornings. The study will be on the book of Hebrews, starting chapter 8 — Jesus our Great High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. Even if you have not been in the class yet, you can jump in any time.

Moving Fund Envelope ~ When using the moving fund envelope, please include your envelope number to assist the Finance team and to ensure proper credit.

St. Paul's School ~ Principal at St. Paul's School At the Voter's meeting on June 10, Mr. Peter Markgraf from Sioux Falls, SD, was called for one year to serve as our interim principal. Peter and his wife, Michelle, have 2 children, ages 20 and 18. Please keep St. Paul's and the Markgraf family in your prayers as he considers this call. **Farewell Reception** On Sunday, June 24, 9:30 am service at St Paul's Church, we will say farewell to Greg and Lisa Thiesfeldt. A reception will follow in the fellowship area. A box will be available for cards. **Job Opening at St. Paul's School** Permanent kitchen position available at St. Paul's Lutheran School starting August, 2018. Position would be a minimum of 2 hours per day from 11 am - 1 pm. The job includes serving, clean up, and occasional meal prep along with other duties. Contact Jenny with questions at 354-2329 ext 118. Please leave a message. Applications are available at school office.

MVL Job Openings ~ At the close of this school year, Mrs. Donna Dose will be retiring as our head of the food service. Thankfully, Mrs. Beth Fluegge will assume her role. As a result, Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School has a **part-time position open in the food service** at MVL. This position is for about 6 - 6 1/2 hours per day during the school year. Tasks include food preparation, service, washing dishes and clean up. Individuals interested in this position should contact Principal Tim Plath at MVL at 507-354-6851 or tplath@mvlhs.org. Palmer Bus Service is looking for a **full-time bus driver** for the 2018-19 school year. They are also looking for a bus manager to replace Randy Gieseke, who is retiring after twelve years as MVL's bus manager. A knowledge of diesel engines is helpful for the applicants for the manager position. Interested individuals should contact Shane Johnson at 507-327-6764.

Family Bible Nights at St. Paul's Church ~ A study of the fourth commandment: in our homes, our churches, our communities will be on Wednesdays, July 18th, August 1st and August 8th. The event begins with a picnic at 5:15 pm, followed by opening worship, Bible study, activities and closing. Come and enjoy food, fun and Christian fellowship. At the same time let the Lord bless your heart and home with the message of his love and goodness. Family Bible Time is for all ages. Bring friends. Sign up at: splnewulm.org/church/event/family-bible-night/.

Staff Minister Kelly Emde
Administrative Teacher Jim Dretske
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Karen Grunwald
Teacher Jean Schroeder
St. John's Church Office

kremde@comcast.net
jdretske@splnewulm.org
lbalza@splnewulm.org
kgrunwald@splnewulm.org
jschroeder@splnewulm.org
stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

About the Cover ~ Jesus often taught by means of parables -- earthly stories with heavenly meanings or a comparison of earthly things to describe things in the spiritual realm. In our text for today he describes the kingdom of God by comparing it to seeds planted in the ground. The mustard seed is small and seemingly insignificant, but the plant it produces is tall and strong, so strong in fact that even the birds can perch on its branches as we see portrayed on the cover of the bulletin. So it is with God's kingdom -- seemingly small and insignificant, but in reality, powerful and widespread. The second parable tells how seeds develop into plants and even bear fruit, even though the gardener or farmer does not fully understand how. So it is with God's kingdom. How we are brought to faith, grow spiritually, bear fruits of faith, and ultimately become heirs of eternal life is not something we understand. We only know that the power is in God's Word. The Holy Spirit alone does the work; we are but the gardeners.