

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

Return Service Requested



November 2016
FORTRESS
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church • New Ulm, Minnesota

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"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it..."

- Psalm 127:1

On October 19, 1512, the 29-year-old priest, Martin Luther, received his doctorate degree in theology. He immediately launched into lecturing on the book of the Bible he probably knew the best - Psalms. While he was in the monastery, the Psalter was used frequently during the seven hours each day which were set aside for prayer and meditation on God's Word (called The Canonical Hours).

Dr. Luther began one of his lectures on Psalm 127 this way...

"Let the Lord build your house and look after it. Do not interfere with His work. It falls to Him, not you, to look after it. Leave Him, who is Master of the house and runs it, to look after it. If much is needed in a house, do not worry, God is greater than a house. He who fills heaven and earth will surely be able to fill a house, all the more so because He has undertaken to do so and allows the Psalmist to praise Him for it.

But this does not mean that He forbids you to work. Work you should and must, but do not ascribe the fact that you have food to eat and that your house is furnished to your work, but to God's grace and blessing alone. For where it is ascribed to a man's own work, covetousness and worry immediately raise their heads and the thought that much work will mean many possessions.

Hence the strange contradiction occurs that some, who work extremely hard, have scarcely enough to eat, while other who work leisurely are blessed with all good things. This means God will have the honor, for He alone makes things grow. For even if you were to till the earth for a hundred years, and do all the work in the world, you could not make it bring forth one blade of grass; but while you were asleep, and without your work, God will bring the blade out of the little grain, and He adds many grains according to His will."

So far, Dr. Luther. Each time we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread..." we celebrate a mini-Thanksgiving that our gracious Lord has once again brought forth an abundant harvest of good things to nourish our bodies. Many months before this daily bounty appeared on our tables, He was calling forth the seedlings in the field, lavishing upon them just the right amount of rain and sunshine and vigilantly keeping watch that insects, hail and pestilence do no harm. Likewise, He blesses the growth of the cattle and all things!

November 2016

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Welcome to St. John's!

627 S. Washington St. 507-354-6744

www.stjohnsnewulm.org

Worship Times

Saturdays: 7 pm
Sundays: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

Thanksgiving Services

Wednesday, November 23: 7 pm
Thursday, November 24: 9 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

Children's Sunday School

Sundays: 9:30 am

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

Nor does he leave our souls without the proper nourishment for eternal life. We are fairly adrift in Bibles, Meditations and opportunities to hear the pure Gospel in many churches throughout our nation. Our gracious Lord also sends just the right amount of affliction to drive us to that Word for rest and refreshment from the plague of sin, burden of guilt and the fear of the punishment we deserve. That we can neither avoid persecution nor create an ecclesiastical utopia here on earth is God's way of showing us that, again, it is by his undeserved love - not by the cleverness of His Bride - that the Church endures throughout all eternity.

The sincerest form of Thanksgiving is not to relegate to assumption what our Lord Jesus calls "the one thing needful" (Luke 10:38-42). Rather He admonishes us to hold it fast, insist on it and never to let that which is esteemed by the world take its place.

A blessed Thanksgiving to you all!

In Christ's Service and Yours,
Pastor W. A. Laitinen

From Your Staff Minister

The annual St. John's Fall cleaning will take place on Saturday, November 12 from 9 am to noon. I will serve as the contact for the event. Come for whatever amount of time that you can spare!

The "My Son My Savior" DVDs are available for gifts. If you are interested in giving them away contact me. There is no charge for the DVDs. Also watch for the Christmas decorating event after Thanksgiving.

"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Ro 13:11-12)

Kelly Emde



Thanksgiving Services:

Wednesday, November 23
at 7 pm

Thursday, November 24
at 9 am

Your Synod at Work

The Accounting Oversight Committee

The Accounting Oversight Committee serves the synod and its schools, subsidiaries, and affiliates that are under the oversight of the Synodical Council. It provides assistance in ensuring that appropriate accounting policies and internal controls are established and financial systems are efficient and effective; in retaining external auditors, assisting in ensuring that financial personnel have the requisite skills; and by assisting in ensuring that financial reports are prepared timely, accurately, and in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Currently, the committee has engaged the independent audit firm of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, to conduct the annual audits of the consolidated financial statements of the synod, its schools, and its subsidiaries. For example in 2015, audits were completed within five months of year end and all entities received an unmodified opinion, the best you can get, on the financial statement's compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

In addition to the annual synod financial statement audits, the committee also engaged CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, to audit the WELS VEBA Group health Plan and WELS Pension Plan in 2014. These financial statements also received unmodified opinions, and the auditors did not identify any significant deficiencies or material weakness in their control environments.

In 2016, the committee issued a request for proposal for independent audit services as the five-year contract with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, will be terminating with the fiscal year 2015-16 audits. The committee expects to receive very competitive bids given the continuing improvements in financial systems, controls, reporting, and personnel that have been built up over the past decade.

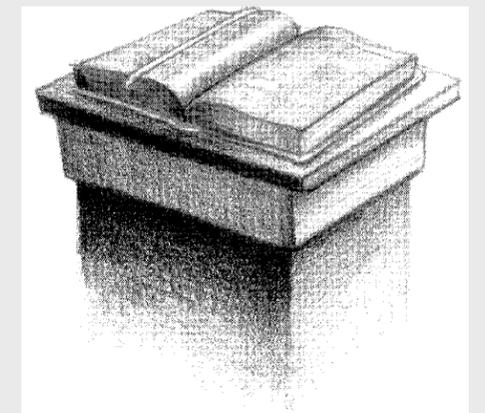
In addition, the committee has asked the finance department at the synod, the synod's ministerial education schools, and Northwestern Publishing House to complete a strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT) analysis that focuses on process controls, staffing levels, cross-training, and other opportunities in the accounting area at their institution.

Gerald Woodley



November Sermon Texts

Nov 6	Luke 19:11-27	Ten Minas
Nov 13	Isaiah 65:17-25	Look, Everything is New!
Nov 20	Luke 23:35-43	King of the Jews King of All Souls
Nov 23/24		Thanksgiving
Nov 27	Matthew 24:36-44	Keep Watch



St. Paul's Lutheran School

This Quarter at School

Mr. Nick Kressin was installed and is teaching grades 5-6 and serves as Athletic Director. He also serves as head coach for the SML Football team.

Mrs. Jaspersen, Mrs. Lisa Thiesfeldt, and Mrs. Rachel Tacke are being used in various roles as the school part-time teaching staff. The Kindergarten paraprofessional position was added to the school budget. The position was filled by Mrs. Amber Brown. Mrs. Beth Scharf is the new director of the after school care (ASC) program.

The Handicapped Bathrooms and new road exit to Payne Street were completed prior to school opening. A few details that needed attention continued into the first week of school.

School began on Monday, September 6th, with the theme: *Grow in Grace.* based on 2 Peter 3:18: *"Grow in the Grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

There are a total of 272 (93 St. John's 34.2% of total enrollment) students enrolled in Grades K-8 and 38 children in PreK (8 St. John's 21%)

The new playground was delivered and constructed during the third week of school. It is enjoyed by all age students. Fences are being planned to separate play areas from the new road.

Curriculum study emphasis on Language Arts over the summer resulted in obtaining new resources for spelling and penmanship, and utilizing faculty work to improve student writing.

The WELS Minnesota Teachers Conference was held at Salem Lutheran in Stillwater on Thursday and Friday, October 20-21

MNSAA Accreditation Self-Study

The process for accreditation began on Oct. 16 with a meeting of the steering committee. The committee discussed the development of a congregational survey to evaluate our school's level of compliance with MNSAA standards. The steering committee also discussed the formation and work of sub-committees that will be appointed to do the research and compile the data for the school self-study report. A spring 2018 visitation by a MNSAA team is anticipated.

Building Project at St. Paul's

With the bathrooms complete, the Building Committee will focus on other parts of the planned first phase which includes a new entrance with elevator, an early childhood wing, and present building renovations. Although over a million dollars have been committed or received, the amount is less than that needed to begin construction in 2017. Efforts will continue to increase contributions to the building project. We are confident that the Lord will provide according to his time table to enable the progress of this project. A joint St. Paul's and St. John's committee met to discuss financial support on maintenance/required improvements as part of the renovation portion of the building project. St. John's members have presently committed a combination of commitments and contributions totaling about \$110,000 to the building project.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

Parent/Teacher Consultations are scheduled for Tuesday – Thursday, Nov. 8th - 10th.

Calendar

- Nov. 6 Jr. Choir sings at 9:30 am
- Nov. 8-10 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 11 NO School: Teacher In-Service
- Nov. 17 Band Concert
- Nov. 18 Forensics Family Event
- Nov. 23-25 NO School: Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 7 Jr. Choir sings at 6 pm
- Dec. 14 Grades K-4 sing at 4 pm

School's website: www.splnewulm.org/school

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

\$969,000 budget includes salary increases averaging 1.75% for both called and hired workers. The portion of the budget supporting worker compensation and ongoing expenses (office supplies, plant maintenance and improvement, debt repayment, etc.) is \$823,000. The remaining \$146,000 represents one percent increases for our congregational mission offering (\$84,000), MVL support (\$57,000) and smaller ministries like the Lutheran Institutional Ministry Association (LIMA), the Lutheran Chapel Service and Jesus Cares.

The annual voters' meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

Update: On Sunday, November 6, Pastor Bickelhaupt declined the call to St. John's. Another call meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 13, at 7 pm.

Submitted by Steven Thiesfeldt,
Congregational Chairman

OWLS

OWLS will meet on Monday, November 14, beginning with fellowship at 11 am at St. Paul's Lutheran School. The students will serve lunch at 11:30 am (\$4) in the gym. The program will begin at 12:15 pm. Please rsvp to Dale Markgraf at 354-2735 or demarkgraf@gmail.com by November 6.

The Annual Convention of the OWLS at Omaha brought about 160 participants to our first ever Nebraska Convention. We were not disappointed by the Nebraska beef or by Dale Markgraf's last convention as our national coordinator. The program came to a fitting close on Thursday morning with an extremely dramatic report on our Synod's chaplaincy

work by Pastor Paul Ziemer. He highlighted a new program to train our Synodical soldiers to become spiritual leaders of devotions and worship hours for our uniformed men—and others—who have been called by our government to do often heroic service and crave the solace of praying and singing under our worship guidance. Pastor Zeamer called the military a genuine mission field of the Synod, appreciated by our lonely heroes and receiving funding for its work from individual congregations of the Synod. The Convention thanked Dale Markgraf for his many years of planning OWLS Annual Conventions. St. John's member, Werner Lemke, will assume Dale's role as convention coordinator while Dale continues to head the planning of our local monthly programs.

Dar Raddatz

MLC Ladies' Auxiliary

Thank you for your support of MLC. Please continue to pray for the students, faculty, staff and governing board.

Your donations to the Food Bank are appreciated.

Copies of the summary of the annual meeting are available in the narthex.

Jeneane Thiesfeldt,
Auxiliary contact person,
359-7018 or thiesfjm@gmail.com

Women of St. John's

The Women of St. John's met on Tuesday, October 4, at 6 pm, for their Ladies' Night Out. About 26 ladies met at the New Ulm Country Club and enjoyed a sandwich supper and fellowship.

Council Digest - October 2016

The Special Meeting of the St. John's Voters

Fifty-six voters were present on Sunday evening, October 23, for a special voters' meeting to extend a divine call for a pastor to replace Pastor Laitinen when he retires at the end of the calendar year. The calling process was led by Rev. Charles Degner, Minnesota District president. He began the meeting with a message from God's Word and an overview of the calling process.

Prior to the meeting, the St. John's Board of Elders, chaired by Mr. James Rathje and acting on behalf of the congregation, developed a list of characteristics desired in the next pastor of St. John's in preparation for the extension of this call. In addition to the primary qualities of faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word, the consensus of the elders was to look for the following traits in a new pastor: 1) administrative skill with attention to details; 2) exceptional interpersonal skills; 3) strong vision to mobilize the people of the congregation for service; and 4) evangelical tone. A call list with six candidates meeting these characteristics was provided by Rev. Degner and approved by the voters for consideration.

The field of candidates was narrowed through several rounds of voting until Rev. Jay Bickelhaupt, a man with 13 years of experience currently serving Apostles' Lutheran Church, Billings, Montana, had received a majority of the votes. A motion to cast a unanimous ballot on behalf of Pastor Bickelhaupt subsequently was approved.

Following the meeting, Pastor Bickelhaupt was contacted by telephone to inform him that the Holy Spirit had led the voters to call him to serve St. John's. We await his decision in about a month. Meanwhile, Pastor Bickelhaupt requests your prayers as he considers the call.

The Third Quarter Voters' Meeting

Thirty voters were present on Tuesday evening, October 25, for the regular third quarter congregational meeting. The voters ratified Church Council action by approving membership changes from the last quarter and noting ministrations for the same period.

Transfers Out

Craig Carstensen; Janessa, Mackenzie to St. John's, St. Clair, MN
Warren and Megan Kassuelke; Andrew, Elizabeth to Peace, N. Mankato, MN
Anne McDermott to Courtland, Courtland, MN
Charles and Elaine Neitzel to St. Paul's, New Ulm, MN
John and Hannah Spivey; Aubrielle to Peace, N. Mankato, MN

Transfers In

Craig and Diane Hirschmann; Laurel from St. John's, Milwaukee, WI

Profession of Faith

Joshua Hartwig

Adult Confirmation

Shari Black

Release

Lori Fox

Ministrations

Baptisms

17 Aug: Adelia Sue Hanevik
Elijah Walter Hanevik

Following reports from the called workers, congregational officers, boards and committees, two items of new business were considered.

- A report listing candidates for elective and appointive positions from the Nominating Committee prepared by Vice President Gerald Woodley was approved. The following individuals were elected to three year terms on the church council beginning January 1, 2017: Greg Diersen (vice president); James Grunwald (financial secretary); David Bellig (deacon); and Stephen Balza (Board for Youth and Education chair). The following appointments for the same timeframe were also ratified: Bob Johnson and John Micheel (Finance Committee); Mark Weinkauff, Brad Price and Jesse Zahrt (Board of Evangelism); Bruce Savoy (Endowment Fund Committee); Stan Aufderheide (Board of Youth and Education); Jonathan Roux and Frank Kral (MVL delegate and alternate, respectively); Luke Hunter (Board of Trustees); Gene Slettedahl and Paul Koelpin (Board of Elders); and Ben Strackbein (Board of Stewardship).
- The 2017 congregational budget recommended by the church council and presented by Treasurer Paul Gunderson was approved by the voters. The

Stewardship

Dear St. John's members:

Christian stewardship is the God-pleasing use of the gifts God has given to us. This includes His Word, our time and talents, and our offerings. This month, I'd like to focus on our offerings as a congregation. We thank and serve God through our offerings by funding our congregation to do work to advance God's kingdom that we could not or would not do on our own. St. John's sets a budget each October as a way to approach that work in an orderly way. In previous years, our pastors and staff have adhered well to the set budgets, keeping expenses in line with or well below the plan.

Currently, our offerings have not been enough to meet our planned expenses. So how have we been paying our bills? We have been transferring money from some estate donations which have not yet been designated. This is not ideal, but can be done temporarily. Listed below are the year to date budgeted expenses (YTD) as of the end of September for the four major congregational funds and our year to date receipts for each fund. If you have any questions about our congregation's finances or how our budget is set, please contact me or another member of St. John's church council.

Home Operations

Year to Date budget: \$557,889 (so far, St. John's has underspent by about \$30,000)
YTD offerings: \$449,262; deficit of \$108,627

WELS Missions commitment (to our synod to fund mission work)

YTD budget: \$62,433
YTD offerings: \$59,988; deficit of \$2,445

MVL (congregational support is a large portion of MVL's budget)

YTD budget: \$42,154
YTD offerings: \$34,685; deficit of \$7,469

Building Fund

YTD budget: \$62,522
YTD offerings: \$51,068; deficit of \$11,454

Josiah Stoering
Board of Stewardship chairman

Library News

We have had several donations to the library recently. The title of one of those books that was donated is "Kitty, My Rib" by E. Jane Mall. Perhaps you remember reading it long ago. The author calls it a fictionalized biography. Although much has been written about Dr. Martin Luther, she found little material about Katharine when she was doing research for the book. She begins with Katharine's escape from the convent.

Added to the fiction section of the library are three books by the Christian author, Karen Witemeyer. "Head in the Clouds," "Full Steam Ahead," and "A Worthy Pursuit" are historical romances. We have also added three books in the Mitford series. They are "At Home in Mitford," "Out to Canaan," and "A Light in the Window." They were written by Jan Karon. Be aware that fictional materials sometimes contain theological language by the authors not in agreement with our church's teachings.

Please check your home library for materials from the library which are overdue. If you need to keep them for a longer time, leave me a note in the Return box.

Eleanor Runke
Church Librarian



Archives

Saints Triumphant

Each year in November on Saints Triumphant Sunday we take note of those members whose deaths we celebrated during the past year and thus have joined the Church Triumphant with their Savior in heaven. This month we'll also note some others from past years which might also bring back some special memories.

1956, Pastor was Rollin Reim: William Comnick (age 59), Ernest Haberberg (age 73), Alma (Mrs. John) Gutske (age 52).

1966, Pastor was Frederick Nitz: Fred Wieland (age 85), Emma (Mrs. Frank) Portner (nee Grams) (age 70), Albert Carl Bening (age 74), Bertha (Mrs. George) Kramer (nee Struck), Lawrence C. Marier (age 53).

1991, Pastor was Norval Kock; Director of Christian Education was David Zabel: Herbert Manderfeld (age 91), Prof. Raymond Brey (age 79), Maynard Koosman (age 70). Alyce (Mrs. Arthur) Crum (age 89), Truman A. Benson (age 73).

2006, Pastors were Jeffrey Bovee and Wayne Laitinen; Administrative Teacher was James Dretske: Florence Kohn, Gilbert Schreyer (age 88), Mildred Neumann (age 75), Alvin Schulz (age 65), Mary Benson (age 57), Russell Buck (age 24), Dennis Vogel (age 82), Erna Meinert (age 88).

2016, Pastors were Jeffrey Bovee and Wayne Laitinen; Administrative Teacher was James Dretske: Roy Lueek (age 78), Ralph Meyer (age 90), Elta Buboltz (age 96), Elvia Jacobs (age 83), Doreen Cichon.

This month's Archives report is brief but important for it emphasizes that our time on earth as Christians who believe in a risen and living Savior have an even greater goal and hope in life which may be realized at any age or time. It also reminds us that St. John's past is important for the future—even beyond life in this world.

By way of an added note: the total number of deaths and burials since 1951 is 371.

Bob Krueger
kruegerh@mlc-wels.edu

Cards of Caring

Cards of Caring will meet Saturday, November 19, 2016, to mail Thanksgiving cards and to make Christmas cards.

We meet at 308 S. Washington St. anytime between 9 am and 12 pm.

We use new or pre-used cards which we trim and re-create with decorative stamps. All materials are furnished through donations. We send cards to about 45 homebound members for holidays and birthdays.

At Christmastime we include St. John's college students, students of foreign mission families, and LWMS Befriend a Mission families.

Lois Willems,
contact person



ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH NEW ULM, MN 56073

NOVEMBER 2016
354-6744

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Pastors' Conference, Renville, MN	2 1 pm Sewing for Christian Aid & Relief 6:30 pm Catechism 7 pm Mixed Choir	3 10:30 am Adult Bible Class	4 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	5 WORSHIP 7 PM W/ COMMUNION 7:30 pm MLC Fall Musical
6 Last Judgment WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 9:30 am Jr. Choir sings Sunday School and Adult Bible Class	7 7 pm Women's Bible Study	8 6 pm Sunday School Teachers' Meeting 6 pm Education Meeting 6:30 pm Altar Guild Meeting	9 6:30 pm Catechism 7 pm Mixed Choir	10 10:30 am Adult Bible Class	11 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	12 9-12 pm Church Fall Cleaning WORSHIP 7 PM
13 Saints Triumphant WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 9:30 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Class	14 7 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Trustees Meeting 7 pm Endowment Committee Meeting	15 4 pm Oak Hills Living Center Service 6 pm Elders Meeting 7 pm Council	16 6:30 pm Catechism 7 pm Mixed Choir	17 10:30 am Adult Bible Class	18 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	19 9 am Cards of Caring, 308 S. Washington WORSHIP 7 PM W/ COMMUNION
20 Christ the King WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 8 am Gr. K-4 sing 9:30 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Class	21 4 pm Ridgeway on 23rd Service 7 pm Women's Bible Study	22 7 pm Mixed Choir	23 10 am Sunset Apt. Service THANKSGIVING SERVICE 7 PM	24 THANKSGIVING SERVICE 9 AM	25	26 WORSHIP 7 PM
27 Advent I WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM	28 7 pm Women's Bible Study	29 4 pm Oak Hills Living Center Service	30 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES 4 & 6 PM Fellowship Supper 4:45 - 6 pm 6:30 pm Catechism 7 pm Mixed Choir	T.V. Service: Mondays: 6 pm Tuesdays: 1 pm Thursdays: 10 am on Comcast Channel 14 NU Telecom Channel 3		
Correspondence Pastor Jeffrey Bovee Pastor Wayne Laitinen Kelly Emde Church Office Wendy Lambrecht Jim Dretske				revbovee@gmail.com wayne.laitinen@gmail.com kremde@comcast.net stjohnewulm@gmail.com wlambrecht@newulmtel.net jdretske@splnewulm.org		
Looking Ahead Dec. 4 Youth Group: Caroling Dec. 7 & 14 Midweek Advent Services: 4 & 6 pm Dec. 17 Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal Dec. 18 Sunday School Christmas Service: 11 am Dec. 24 St. Paul's School Christmas Service: 4 pm Candlelight Service: 7 pm Dec. 25 Christmas Day Services: 8 and 9:30 am Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Service: 7 pm						