



"I AM who I AM."

Genesis 3:14

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT: MARCH 22 / 23, 2025

## St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church


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**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.

**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**March 22/23, 2025**

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Almighty God, you led Moses and your people of old to the place you wanted them to be. Although there were tests and trials along the way, you taught them to trust in you, not in themselves. Please lead us in the same way. Through every test and trial give us patience, and increase our faith, so that it rests on you, not on ourselves. Bless our time of worship. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**ORDER OF SERVICE**                      **Service Setting 3**                      pg.188

**OPENING HYMN**                      *The God of Abraham Praise*                      CW 613

*Stand*

**CONFESSION OF SINS**                      pg.188

**LORD HAVE MERCY**                      pg.190

**GLORY TO GOD**                      pg.191

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Be seated*

**FIRST LESSON**                      Exodus 3:1–15

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on

fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

<sup>5</sup> “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

<sup>12</sup> And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ ”

“This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY** *LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer* Psalm 85

**SECOND LESSON**

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

<sup>1</sup> For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. <sup>2</sup> They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup> They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup> and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” <sup>8</sup> We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. <sup>9</sup> We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. <sup>10</sup> And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

<sup>11</sup> These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup> So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

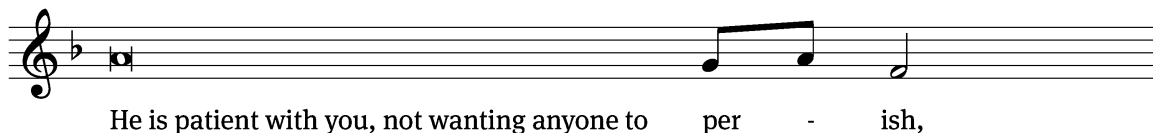
2 Peter 3:9



*Refrain*



*Tone*



*Refrain*

**GOSPEL**

Luke 13:1–9

<sup>1</sup> Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all

the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

<sup>8</sup> “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

<b>HYMN OF THE DAY</b>	<i>Delay Not! Delay Not</i>	CW 712
<b>SERMON</b>	The All-Sufficient God Calls Upon His Insufficient Servants	Exodus 3:1-15

*Stand*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

pg.198

**OFFERING**

**HYMN**

*Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake*

CW 702

**PRAYER AND BLESSING**

pg.171

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CW 923

**PREACHER**

Pastor Jeff Bovee

**PRESIDING MINISTER**

Pastor Rob Guenther

**ORGAN**

Becky Berg

**Acknowledgments**

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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**Welcome, Visitors!**

Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Stewardship of Teammates
Wednesday	11 am	Midweek Lenten Service
	3:30 pm	Public & Homeschool Catechism
	4, 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Service
	5:30 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Bible Information Class
	7:15 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Friday	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Mar. 30	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class
Tuesday, Apr. 1	7 pm	Women of St. John's
Wednesday, Apr. 2	11 am	Lenten Service
	3:30 pm	Homeschool & Public School Catechism
	4, 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Service
	5:30 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Bible Information Class
	7:15 pm	Choir
Thursday, Apr. 3	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Friday, Apr. 4	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 342 with 251 receiving the Lord's Supper

### **Fruits of Faith:**

\$16,568 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$195,777 / YTD: \$207,920  
\$2,343 WELS Missions ~ RTD: \$22,667 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)  
\$1,164 MVL ~ RTD: \$12,886 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)  
\$75 Building Fund  
\$280 K-12 Education Assistance  
\$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund  
\$50 Women of St. John's  
\$100 St. Paul's School  
\$100 Gifts for Called Workers/Staff  
\$81 Christian Family Solutions  
\$2,000 Technology Equipment

**Ask the Pastor Evening** ~ on April 10, 7–8 pm Come to the next “Ask the Pastor” evening and bring a friend! This is our third “Ask the Pastor” event which has turned out to be a fun and learning-filled evening. Bring your questions that evening or place your questions in the box on the table in the narthex area.

**Givelify...Giving Simplified** ~ Do you have an account with retailers like Amazon or Walmart and appreciate the convenience it offers? Are you the kind of person who prefers to pay your purchases and bills digitally? Considering moving from weekly offering envelopes to an electronic option? Good news! St John's now has a very simple and safe way for you to make one-time or ongoing gifts via a website or app. A short video explaining the service was shown after the March 8/9 services. If you want more information about how to use Givelify, check out the March edition of St John's newsletter (p. 8) or go to the St. John's website, click on support, and then click the “Information” button. This will take you to a more detailed description with links to answer questions like:



- How can I use Givelify to donate from a computer or tablet?
- How can I download and use the Givelify app?
- How can I add/edit my assigned envelope number to my Givelify account? The QR code can be scanned with your smartphone's camera and it will take you to a place where you can download the Givelify app. Oh, and no. St John's does not discourage or plan to eliminate the opportunity to use envelopes or cash/check offerings. This is simply another option for those who no longer write checks or carry cash and prefer digital transactions.

**New Ulm Food Shelf** ~ There is still time to donate food or money to the New Ulm Area Emergency Food Shelf. Place food items in the boxes in the narthex or monetary donations in a clearly marked envelope in the offering plate on Sundays before March 31st

**Women of St. John's** - Tuesday, April 1 at 7 pm, Ruth Westphal from New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers will be our guest speaker. We will be collecting items until that evening to send back with Ruth for the residents. Be sure to check out the display in the new narthex for additional information or visit [homeformothers.com](http://homeformothers.com). All are welcome to attend and bring a friend!

**CAMM Collection** - There will be an ongoing collection of empty, label-free, small pill bottles for our WELS Central Africa Medical Mission. However, we will also be collecting small, lightweight items until the LWMS Spring Rally on Saturday, April 5 that can be sent to Malawi and Zambia with the pill bottles. Check out the display in the new narthex for further details or visit [camm.us](http://camm.us).

**Iris Boxes**-The Iris Box Project is a continuing ministry at St. John's. Almost 100 boxes have been distributed since the ministry began. We need to replenish the supply and could use your help, whether it's with your time, talents, or treasures. If you would like to support the Iris Box Project, you may donate the amount for a box (approx. \$40/box) or any amount. You may include it in your offering envelope with "Iris Box Project" on the envelope. If you knit or crochet and would like to help by making small blankets, please contact Kelly by phone/text or email listed below. Yarn and specifications will be provided to you. If you are willing to donate your time by assembling boxes or other tasks,

also please contact Kelly. The Iris Box is designed to be given to families who lost their baby through miscarriage or stillbirth. The items included in the box are intended as a source of comfort and a symbol of our love and care. Members are welcomed and encouraged to pick up a box from the church office for any family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker, etc. who experiences a miscarriage or stillbirth. Please contact Kelly Diersen (507-766-9085), Catherine St. John (248-346-0402) or Sarah Strackbein (612-361-0425) email [irisboxproject@gmail.com](mailto:irisboxproject@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**Memorial Service for Bill Tacke** ~ As you may know, Bill Tacke, a former member of St. John's, whose wife Mae Tacke was also our church secretary for a number of years, was taken to heaven on January 20, 2025. A memorial service will be held for Bill on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. -- Coffee hour; 11:00 -- Memorial Service.

### **AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Open Positions at LMSG** ~ Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is seeking a part-time paid bookkeeper to manage financial transactions, contributions, and reports for the organization. Additionally, there is a volunteer opening for an LMSG Their Stories Told interviewer/writer to share the stories of WELS/ELS Military Service Members. LMSG provides Christ-centered support to WELS and ELS Military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. Learn more at [www.lutheranmilitary.org](http://www.lutheranmilitary.org).

**Message from Mrs. Ring** ~ The One Thing Needful. I will be retiring at the end of this school year after 32 years of teaching, 27 of which have been at St. Paul's Lutheran School. I cherish my time teaching many children about Jesus their Savior, the one thing needful. My own children were taught this truth by many wonderful teachers during their time at St. Paul's. Knowing Jesus is our Savior was a fact that my daughter Laura knew when she died in April of 2000 while she was an 8 th grader here. I want to thank Mr. Dale Markgraf for all he did for me as my first principal here, and all of the principals following Dale. I was fortunate over the years to help in a variety of ways at our school such as in coaching, playing the piano, and helping with the

musical. I loved watching my students grow academically and spiritually. I loved listening to all the stories and jokes children told me over the years. It was a huge blessing to be a part of this school for so many years. St. Paul's is truly a special place. I look forward to spending time with my husband John, my children and their spouses, and my grandson Oskar. May God continue to bless St. Paul's in the future, as He has in the past! God's blessings, Mrs. Cindy Ring

**MVL's After Prom** ~ is on April 26, 2025, at the New Ulm Rec Center! This event is all about giving our students a safe space to celebrate after their big night. MVL Junior parents are reaching out for donations! Your contributions will help cover costs like venue rentals, food, and entertainment, making this night one that students will cherish for years to come. Would you be willing to support our efforts to ensure our kids have a memorable and secure experience? You can donate by scanning this QR code or going to this link online <https://gofund.me/05027fd3>. Donation checks can also be made out to the MVL After Prom Committee and mailed to MVL! Thank you for considering our request and for your ongoing support of our students!



**Help Needed** ~ St. Paul's School is looking for people who are willing to assist with the school's Wellness Committee. You would support the school by working with a team to study the current Wellness Policy, compare it to the Minnesota requirements, and make any changes to the policy that would be necessary. It would be 4 meetings per year and possibly a small amount of time on individual work. We are also going to be working on resources to share with parents and caregivers for healthy living. If you are interested in making a positive and healthy impact on the school, please email Mrs. Klug at [kklug@splnewulm.org](mailto:kklug@splnewulm.org). Thank you for your time and support!

**Choral Concert ~ *Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See*** Join the Southwest Area Lutheran Chorale for an inspiring choral concert featuring a mix of new music and beloved classics. Under the theme *Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See*, the choir will perform works by renowned composers including Pepper Choplin, Keith and Kristyn Getty, and Rosenphanye Powell. Don't miss this uplifting experience! Concerts will take place April 6th at 2:00 PM – Trinity Lutheran Church, Nicollet, MN and April 6th at 7:00 PM – Zion Lutheran Church, Sanborn, MN. We look forward to sharing this beautiful music with you!

**LWMS Rally** ~ All are invited to attend the LWMS rally on April 5 at Friedens Lutheran Church in New Prague, MN. The rally begins with a coffee fellowship at 8:00AM, and the speaker of the day is Pastor Larry Schlomer-World Mission board Chairman. Please RSVP to Carrie Schaefer [carriehieb@yahoo.com](mailto:carriehieb@yahoo.com).

**Travel with WELS Groups** ~ Interested in traveling with other members of our WELS faith family where daily devotion and Christian fellowship are integral parts of the itinerary? The OWLS (WELS Seniors group) is partnering with *Father's World Tours* to offer two upcoming trips, and WELS members of all ages are eligible to come along. Nature enthusiasts, spend some time with MLC Professor Emeritus Jim Pope in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. The May 10-16 trip offers convenient starting points (MSP, New Ulm, or Sioux Falls) and affordable pre/post-tour (May 9 or 16) hotel opportunities. History lovers, join MLC professors Pete Baganz, Paul Koelpin, and Keith Wessel for a bucket list June 8-25 trip to London, Normandy, and Paris. Group flights are available from Chicago or Minneapolis. Registration closes March 14. Visit [www.fathersworldtours.com](http://www.fathersworldtours.com) or contact Steve Balza ([steve@fathersworldtours.com](mailto:steve@fathersworldtours.com) or 507-217-1731) for full details.

**MVL Auction** ~ Y-O-U are invited to this year's Jeans and Dreams Booster Club Auction! Funds raised benefit fine arts, athletics, and academic teams at MVL! The need is great again this year so put on your jeans and join us April 5th at the Historic Turner Hall in New Ulm! Doors open at 5:30pm! FREE EVENT! Anyone who wants to donate an item (new & unopened), themed-basket, experience, baked goods, weekend vacation, fishing trip, etc. for our live auction, silent auction, or buy-it-now-table? Contact one of the following! Michelle Grubbs: [momwde@gmail.com](mailto:momwde@gmail.com) Karly Kock: [karlybo6@gmail.com](mailto:karlybo6@gmail.com) Jess Ziemer: 507-779-4090  
Hard deadline for donations: 3pm on Friday, March 28th! Thank you for your continued support of MVL! Hope to see you all on April 5th with your jeans on!"

**MLC Concerts** ~ The Martin Luther College Choir will present a sacred concert titled "God is our Refuge & Strength" at 4:00 pm on Sunday, March 23, at the Chapel of the Christ. The concert is one of several the choir is presenting as part of their spring touring schedule. Also, join the College Choir of Martin Luther College and the Seminary Chorus of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., for a special joint concert to celebrate the synod's 175th anniversary on Saturday, March 29 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel of the Christ.

**About the Cover** ~ The LORD called to Moses from the burning bush to go to Egypt, and deliver the people of Israel from slavery, and lead them into the Promised Land. Moses did not believe he was up to the task, and in all truth, by his own strength or volition, he was not. But the LORD promised to be with him and assured him that he would not have to rely on his own wisdom and ingenuity. God also promises that it is not by our own strength or wisdom that we are saved either, but by his amazing grace alone