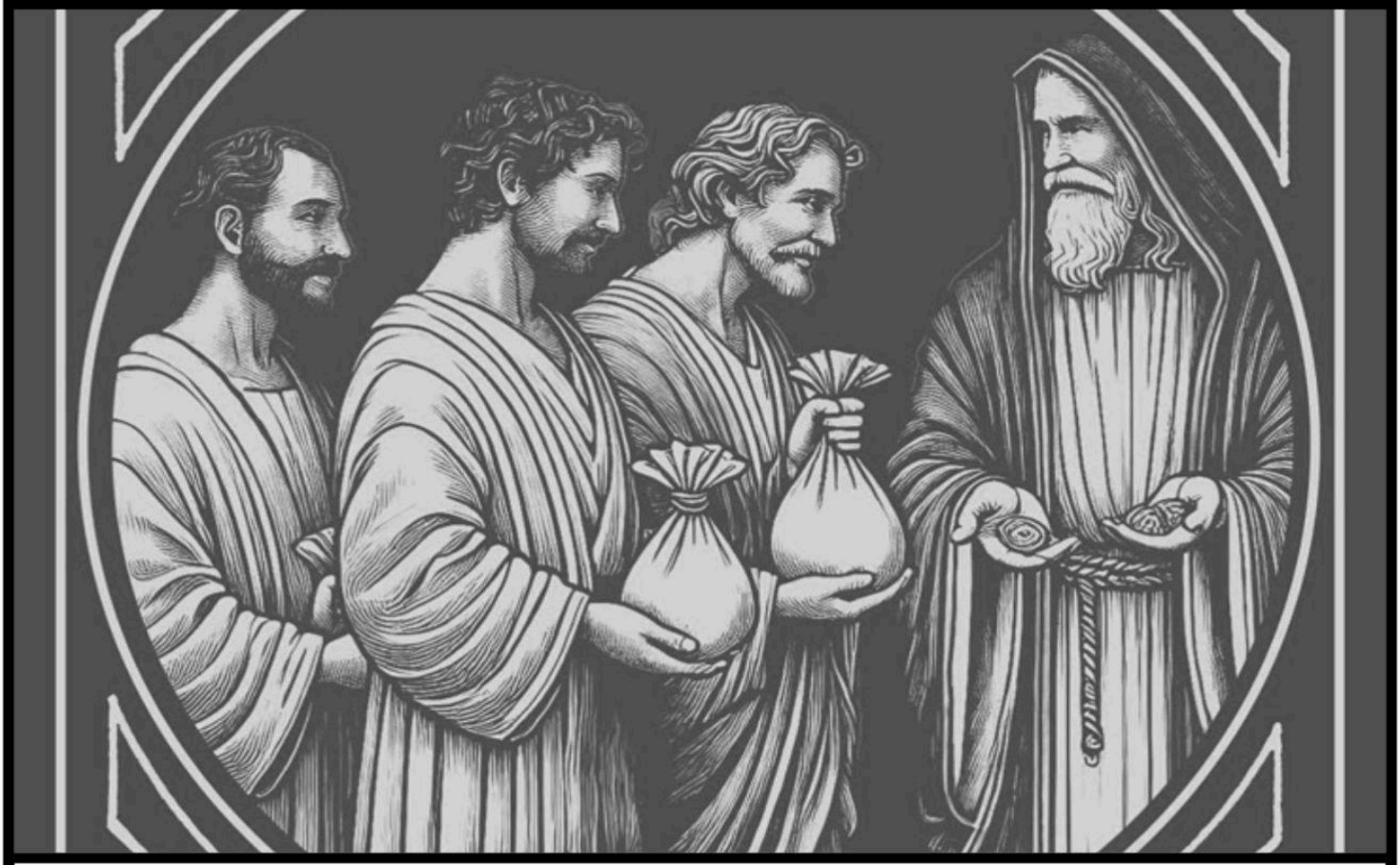
St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
November 14/15, 2026

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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 14/15, 2026

Welcome, Visitors! Members and Visitors please scan the QR code to sign our register.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, we know that we have not always used the gifts and blessings that you have given us faithfully, to your glory. We are grateful that you have forgiven us in Christ and made us your own through faith in him. Now help us to use our gifts and talents in thanks to you and to your glory. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

HANDBELLS ***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*** arr. Ron Mallory
8 & 9:30am

ORDER OF SERVICE ***Service Setting 2*** pg. 172

OPENING HYMN ***Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly*** CW 748

Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS pg. 172

LORD HAVE MERCY pg. 174

GLORY TO GOD pg. 176

PRAYER OF THE DAY pg. 178

Be seated

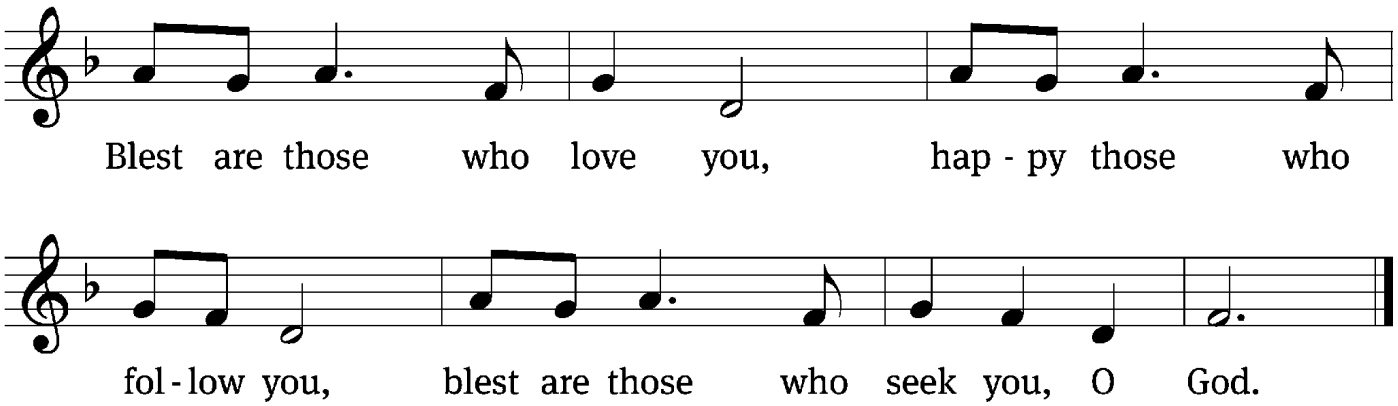
FIRST LESSON Isaiah 1:10-18

10 Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the
instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah! 11 "The multitude of your
sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the LORD. "I have more than enough
of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals;
I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. 12 When you
come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my
courts? 13 Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to
me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your worthless
assemblies. 14 Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate
with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing
them. 15 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from
you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are
full of blood!
16 Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my
sight; stop doing wrong. 17 Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the
oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.
18 "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins
are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as
crimson, they shall be like wool."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY ***Blest Are Those Who Love You*** Psalm 128C

Refrain



Blessed are all who / fear the Lord,
who walk in obedi- / ence to him.
You will eat the fruit of your / labor;
blessings and prosperity / will be yours.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine with- / in your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your / table. *Refrain*

Yes, this will be the / blessing
for the man who / fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from / Zion;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days / of your life.
May you live to see your children's / children—
peace be on / Israel.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

SECOND LESSON Romans 12:1-8

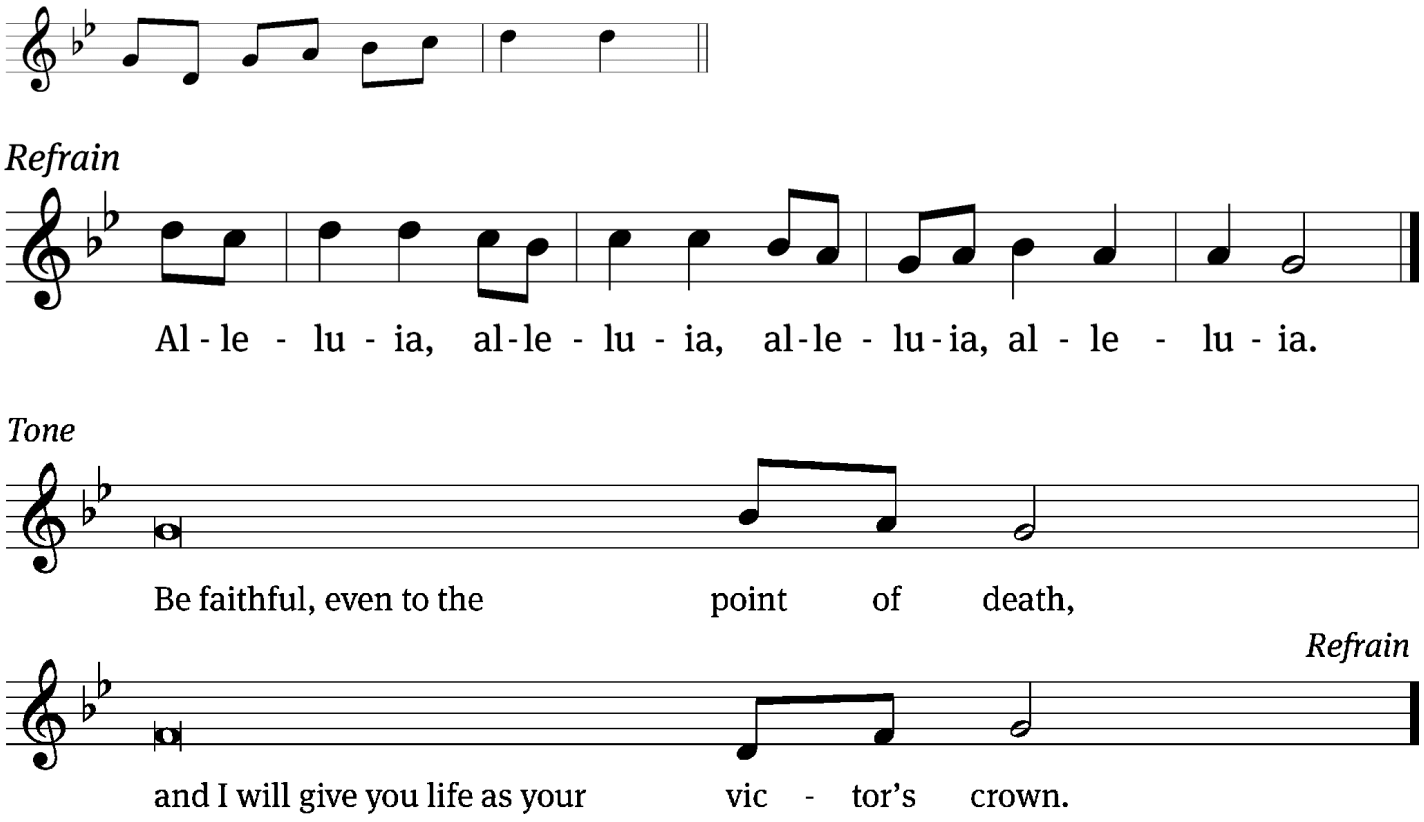
[1] Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. [2] Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

[3] For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of
yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober
judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.
[4] For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these
members do not all have the same function, [5] so in Christ we, though many,
form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [6] We have
different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is
prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; [7] if it is serving,
then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; [8] if it is to encourage, then give
encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it
diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Revelation 2:10



GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants
and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to
another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then
he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at
once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one
with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one
bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.
19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled
accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the
other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I
have gained five more.’
21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been
faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and
share your master’s happiness!’
22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you
entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’
23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been
faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and
share your master’s happiness!’
24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said,
‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and
gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out
and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’
26 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest
where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well
then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when
I returned I would have received it back with interest.
28 “ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten
bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance.
Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And
throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY ***O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made*** CW 751

SERMON Don't Bury Your Talents! Matthew 25:14-20

Stand

NICENE CREED pg. 180

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH pg. 182

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT pg. 183

Guests, please see announcements for our policy on communion.

Stand

LORD'S PRAYER pg. 185

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN ***I Come, O Savior, to Your Table*** CW 670

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSING pg. 187

PREACHER	Pastor Rob Guenther
PRESIDING MINISTER	Pastor Jeff Bovee
ORGANIST	Becky Berg
HANDBELLS	Becky Berg

Acknowledgments
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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles: 1 Timothy
	9:30 am	Sunday School
Tuesday	5:30 pm	Joint Council
Wednesday	6:15 pm	No Public School Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	No Morning Bible Class
	7 pm	Bible Class: Bible Information Class
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Nov. 22	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Pastoral Epistles: 1 Timothy
	9:30 am	Sunday School
Tuesday, Nov. 24	4 pm	Oak Hills Worship Service
Wednesday, Nov. 25	6:30 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Thursday, Nov. 26	9 am	Thanksgiving Service
		Office Closed
Friday, Nov. 27		Office Closed
Saturday, Nov. 28	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 806.

Fruits of Faith:

$12,747 Home Operations ~ YTD: $754,503 / Needed: $775,323
$1,044 WELS Missions ~ YTD: $76,443 (2026 Goal: $100,701)
$862 MVL ~ YTD: $49,464 (2026 Goal: $62,278)
$265 Building Fund
$7 Food and Fellowship
$50 St. Paul's School Building Fund
$15 St. John's Endowment
$60 K-12 Tuition Assistance Fund

Givelify Scan the QR code to use the Givelify app and donate your offering.

Close Communion ~ At St. John's we practice "close communion." That is, we invite only those who are in fellowship with us as members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church (or of a synod that is in fellowship with us) to commune with us. We are in no way judging your personal faith. But we recognize that in the Lord's supper we enjoy not only a close communion, or fellowship, with God, but we also enjoy a close communion with one another as we publicly express our agreement in every teaching of God's Word. And we wouldn't presume to ask you to publicly confess your agreement with all that we teach and believe without first being instructed in what it is that we teach and believe. But if you do desire to commune with us, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

Pastor Bovee Serving a Vacancy ~ Brothers and Sisters, please be aware that Pastor Bovee, who serves as the Circuit Pastor for the South New Ulm Circuit, is also the vacancy pastor for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in St. James, since their pastor took a call to another congregation. As a result, Pastor Bovee may be gone on some Sundays, and every Wednesday afternoon, to preach and teach Bible Class and Catechism in St. James. There are also other pastors and professors who will be helping out until God provides St. James with a new, permanent shepherd. Keep them in your prayers. If Pastor Bovee is absent, that is why. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Pie Fellowship ~ Join us for pie and fellowship on Wednesday, November 25 after the Thanksgiving service. The sign up sheet will be in the new narthex. Contact Jackie Hieb for more information.

Volunteers for Advent Meals ~ As we prepare for the Advent season, we are looking for volunteers to help serve our Advent meals for 12/2 and 12/16 from 4-6:30pm. If you would be willing to organize a group of 6–8 volunteers, please reach out to Kristen Hanevik at Kristen.hanevik@gmail.com. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together, serve others, and help make the season special for our church family. Food needs will be coming shortly!!

The Twelve Days of Christmas ~ Scripture, Family, and Service. You're invited this Christmas season to join us for The Twelve Days of Christmas, a devotional series designed to help us grow in God's Word, strengthen our faith at home, and serve one another and our neighbors. Beginning December 25, each day will include a short Scripture reading, a devotional reflection, a question for family discussion, a prayer, and a simple activity or service opportunity. Together, we'll explore Scripture and reflect on the gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who continues to speak to us through his Word. The hope is that this shared experience will help us build meaningful devotional habits, grow together in faith, and carry the joy of Christmas into our homes, congregation, and community.

Cards of Caring ~ Members of St. John's and MLC students are invited to help male cards our congregation sends to homebound members, LWMS-Befriend a Mission Families and others from our church. We use donated, recycled, and created cards. Supplies are furnished. We need help writing messages, stamping, and assembling cards. This fall our main focus will be on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We meet Saturday mornings between 9am-12pm at 403 N. Minnesota St. (across from the Glockenspiel). We will meet on September 19, October 17th, and November 14th, 2026. Thank you for considering to serve our members. For further information contact Lois Willems at (507) 676-1230.

Christmas for Kids 2026 ~ Get ready for a morning full of fun at St. John's! Join us on Saturday, December 5th, from 8:30–11:00 a.m. for our annual Christmas for Kids event! Children in Pre-K through 4th grade are invited to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with a morning of Bible study, festive crafts, Christmas music, and cookie decorating! Ready to join the fun? Sign up your children using the QR code below. We can't wait to celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth with your kiddos!

Christmas for Kids Food Donation ~ We are looking for food donations for Christmas for Kids! If you are able to help out, a sign up sheet is in the new narthex.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

MLC Presents Wind Symphony Concert ~ Please join us on Sunday, November 22, at 3 pm in the MLC Auditorium for "In Every Season," a celebration of the experiences that shape us and the music that gives them voice. Whatever season we find ourselves in, there is something to hear, something to feel, and something worth celebrating.

MVL Wreaths ~ Tis the season!… MVL will once again be selling wreaths, swags, crosses, and live garland to help bring the sights and scents of Christmas to your home or business! Wreath orders are now open and all orders must be placed by Sunday, November 15th. This year all ordering will be done online. Simply go to the MVL website, click on wreaths, and place your order! We hope to deliver most products to your church by Thanksgiving weekend. Thank you for your support!

LMSG Ammo Can Campaign ~ Each May and November, Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) seeks donations in support of our military men, women, and families. LMSG, a partnership of ELS and WELS Veterans, is working to grow awareness of and bring Christian support to our Christian Warriors and their families in our congregations. By placing your gift in the Ammo Can located in the new narthex, you are supporting the spiritual and mental health of our Christian Warriors through programs like our retreats and workshops, educational support for pastors serving military families, Veterans pursuing a second career in public ministry, and more. Visit www.lutheranmilitary.org for more information. Thank you for standing Shoulder to Shoulder in Service with those who serve our Nation!

School Building Campaign Bake Sale and Pancake Breakfast ~ With the 2026 Amazing Race, Dig In Gala, and .5K in the rear view mirror, the last Campaign event is coming up soon! This year's Bake Sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 21 and 22, and the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, November 22. This joint event will benefit the St. Paul's School Building Campaign and will be held in the St. Paul's Church narthex and Fellowship Hall. It will be perfect timing for your Thanksgiving needs - pies, cakes, cookies, and more will be included in the bake sale. If you'd like to donate items for the bake sale, please drop those items in the church kitchen on Saturday, November 21. Please have them priced and ready to sell. If you'd like to volunteer to help the weekend of the event, you can find sign-up information at https://signup.com/go/TxTdXDd. Contact Amy Rich at stampinnut@me.com with your questions and suggested bake sale pricing information.

Job Opening at MLC ~ Female Dormitory Custodian: Helps care for the place that our female students call home during their time at MLC. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.