

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

**I HAVE MADE YOU
A LIGHT...**

that you may bring salvation
to the ends of the earth.

Acts 13:47 (NIV)



Second Sunday After Christmas
January 4/5, 2025

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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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 4/5, 2025

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, we thank and praise you that you have called us out of darkness into your glorious light. Now you call us to declare your praises that others might know the Light of the World, our Savior, Jesus, by our proclamation. Make us bold to speak of your grace -- that grace that rescued us. Amen.

HYMN

Arise and Shine in Splendor

CW 375

- 1 Arise and shine in splendor; let night to day surrender.
Your light is drawing near. Above, the day is beaming,
in matchless beauty gleaming; the glory of the Lord is here.
- 2 See earth in darkness lying, the heathen nations dying
in hopeless gloom and night. To you the Lord of heaven—
your life, your hope—has given great glory, honor, and delight.
- 3 Lift up your eyes in wonder—see, nations gather yonder
from sin to be set free. The world has heard your story;
her sons come to your glory, her daughters haste your light to see.
- 4 Your heart will leap for gladness when from the realms of sadness
they come from near and far. Your eyes will wake from slumber
as people without number rejoice to see the Morning Star.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and

forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

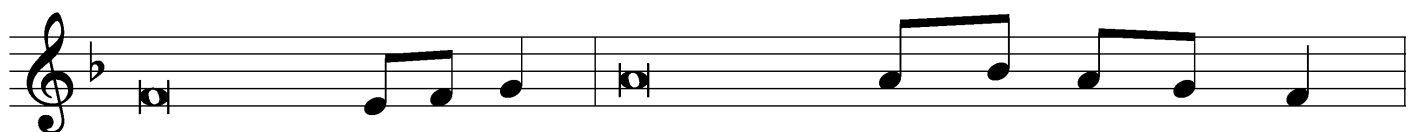
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.



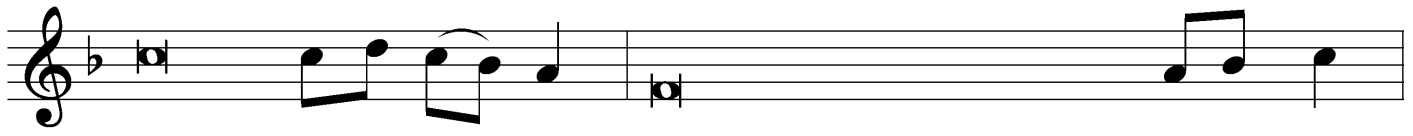
Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



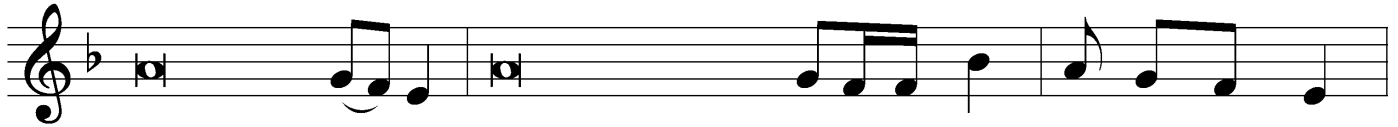
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



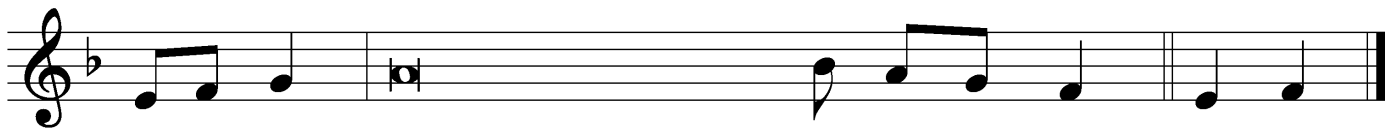
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Genesis 17:1-7

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

The Word of the Lord.

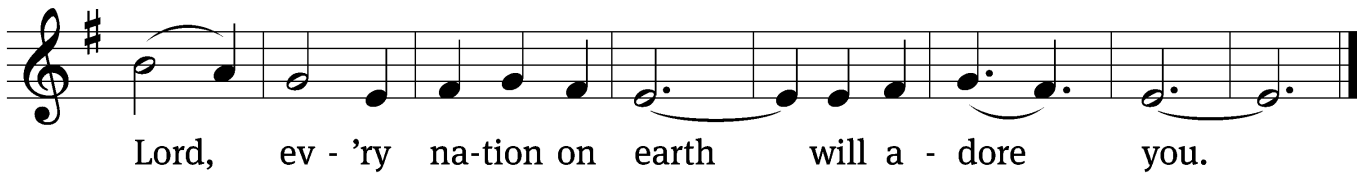
Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY

Lord, Every Nation On earth Will Adore You

Psalm 72

Refrain



Tone



Endow the king with your justice, / O God,
the royal son with your / righteousness.
May he endure as long / as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all gener- / ations.

May he be like rain falling on a / mown field,
like showers water- / ing the earth.
In his days may the righteous / flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon / is no more. *Refrain*

May all kings bow / down to him
and all nations / serve him.

Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be / given him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba pre- / sent him gifts.

May people ever / pray for him
and bless him / all day long.

Then all nations will be / blessed through him,
and they will / call him blessed.

**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 READING

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

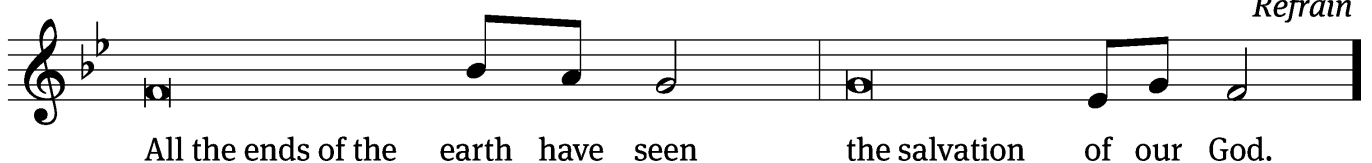
Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain



Tone



GOSPEL

Luke 1:68–79

⁶⁸“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David ⁷⁰(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), ⁷¹salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—⁷²to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath he swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* CW 370

- 1 How lovely shines the Morning Star! The nations see and hail afar
the light in Judah shining. O David’s son of Jacob’s race,
my Bridegroom and my King of grace, for you my heart is pining.
Lowly, holy, great and glorious, O victorious Prince of graces,
filling all the heav’nly places.
- 2 O highest joy by mortals won, true Son of God and Mary’s son,
the highborn King of ages! In your blest body let me be,
e’en as the branch is in the tree, your life my life supplying.
Sighing, crying for the savor of your favor, resting never
till I rest in you forever.
- 3 O mighty Father, in your Son you loved me ere you had begun
this ancient world’s foundation. Your Son has made a friend of me,
and when in spirit him I see, I joy in tribulation.
What bliss is this! He is living, to me giving life forever;
nothing me from him can sever.

- 4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, beginning without end,
the first and last, eternal! And you at length—O glorious grace—
will take me to that holy place, the home of joys supernal.
Amen, amen! Come and meet me, quickly greet me! With deep yearning,
Lord, I look for your returning
- 5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds of music ring
in God's high praises blended. Christ will be with me all the way,
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day till trav'ling days are ended.
Sing out, ring out triumph glorious, O victorious chosen nation;
praise the God of your salvation.

SERMON **Rise and Shine! (And Give God the Glory)**
I. Rescued by the Light
II. Rescue with the Light

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 truly 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.**

Be seated

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms.

Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor.

Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [especially... here name the person and the cause of the petition]. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [especially... here name the person]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

OFFERING

Stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

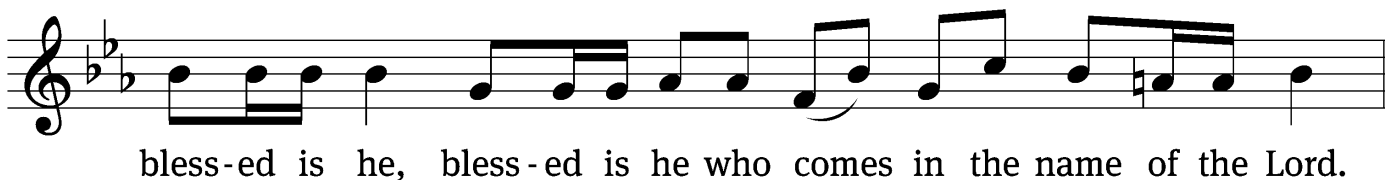
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

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.

Amen.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CW 331

- 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev’ry home;
glad tidings of great joy I bring, whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 “To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this little child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 “This is the Christ, our God most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry;
he will himself your Savior be from all your sins to set you free.
- 4 “He will on you the gifts bestow prepared by God for all below,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share.
- 5 “These are the signs which you shall mark:
the swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid by whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”
- 6 How glad we’ll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
to see what God for us has done in sending us his own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, and see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.

- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery, that you might share your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though you created all, how weak you are, so poor and small,
that you should choose to lay your head where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair and set with gold and jewels rare,
it would be far too poor and small a cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king, so rich and great, to be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases you to see this simple truth revealed to me:
that worldly honor, wealth, and might are weak and worthless in your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
within my heart, made clean and new, a quiet chamber kept for you.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap; my lips no more can silence keep.
I too must sing with joyful tongue that sweetest ancient cradle song:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us his Son has giv'n,
while angels sing with pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	No Bible Class
Monday	2 pm	Installation of Pastor Kuehl
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Tuesday	7 pm	Women of St. John's
Wednesday	3:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Friday	10 am	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Saturday	8 am	Board of Properties
	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Jan. 12	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Psalms
Monday, Jan. 13	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 14	6 pm	Sunday School Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 15	3:30 pm	Homeschool & Public School Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, Jan. 16	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	11:30 am	Stewardship Meeting
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices & Virtues
Friday, Jan. 10	10 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 561 with 412 communing.

Fruits of Faith:

\$28,699 Home Operations ~ Year to Date needed: \$898,932 / Year to Date received: \$882,828

\$1,909 WELS Missions ~ Received to Date: \$85,794 (2024 Goal: \$78,000)

\$747 MVL ~ Received to Date: \$55,939 (2024 Goal: \$52,000)

\$139 Food and Fellowship

\$6,010 K-12 Education Assistance

\$1,500 Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund

\$305 Building Fund

\$5 Sanctuary Renovation

\$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund

\$1,456 Gifts for Called Workers/Staff

\$92 Women of St. John's

This does not include Christmas Eve or Christmas Day offerings

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. John's Cancer Journey Group will meet on Sunday, January 19 at 3pm in the lower-level fellowship area. We encourage you to attend if your life has been touched by cancer at any time. Our gatherings are not only for the person diagnosed with cancer. We also include adult family members and supportive friends. Our purpose is to receive encouragement from God's Word and each other. If you know of someone who is not a St. John's member but might be interested, invite them, and come with them!

St. Paul's Preschool Open House ~ Mon. Jan. 20, 2025 – 3PM – 6PM. New preschoolers, please come and visit! This includes SPP children moving to a new SPP classroom! St. Paul's Preschool offers full day & part-time sessions for 3, 4 and 5 year old children. Watch for a preschool Information/Registration mailing in early January. St John's (NU & SE) & St. Paul's members and our school families are invited to have first choice of preschool sessions through Jan 20th. (Community "Open Registration" begins Jan. 21.) If you have questions, please contact our preschool director, Mrs. Heidi Meyer: preschool@splnewulm.org.

Amazing Race ~ The 2025 Amazing Race is right around the corner! This FUN-raising event will benefit the School Building Project and is always one of the must-attend events of the year. It will take place on Sunday, February 2, with lunch for all starting at 11:30 and race time at 1pm. There will be events at school for everyone, even those who don't wish to race. If you would like to race, get your teams together and prepare for a trip around town that you won't soon forget! You can register your team of 4-7 people here: <https://bit.ly/amazingrace2025>. Cost is \$15 per racer. Team registration is due Friday, January 17, with a deadline of January 10 to order your Amazing Race short sleeve t-shirt at <https://bit.ly/amazingracets25> (see attached t-shirt graphic). We are already looking forward to the big day!

Owls Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) will be gathering on Monday, January 13 for a noon Pizza meal at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm. The costs will be covered with Thrivent Action Team moneys. Fellowship begins at 11:30 AM. After the meal, Prof Dan Balge will do a devotion and then give a presentation on the "History of European Civilian Chaplaincy." If you plan to attend, contact Myron Fluegge at flueggemtj@hotmail.com or phone 507-359-2424 by Wednesday noon, January 8, 2025, for a meal count. Hope you can make it

About the Cover ~ God made Paul and Barnabas “a light for the Gentiles, that [they might] bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” God has done the same for us. Having rescued us by Jesus, the Light of the World, he now makes us the search lights that get to rescue others by proclaiming the news of the salvation that our Savior won for all to the ends of the earth.