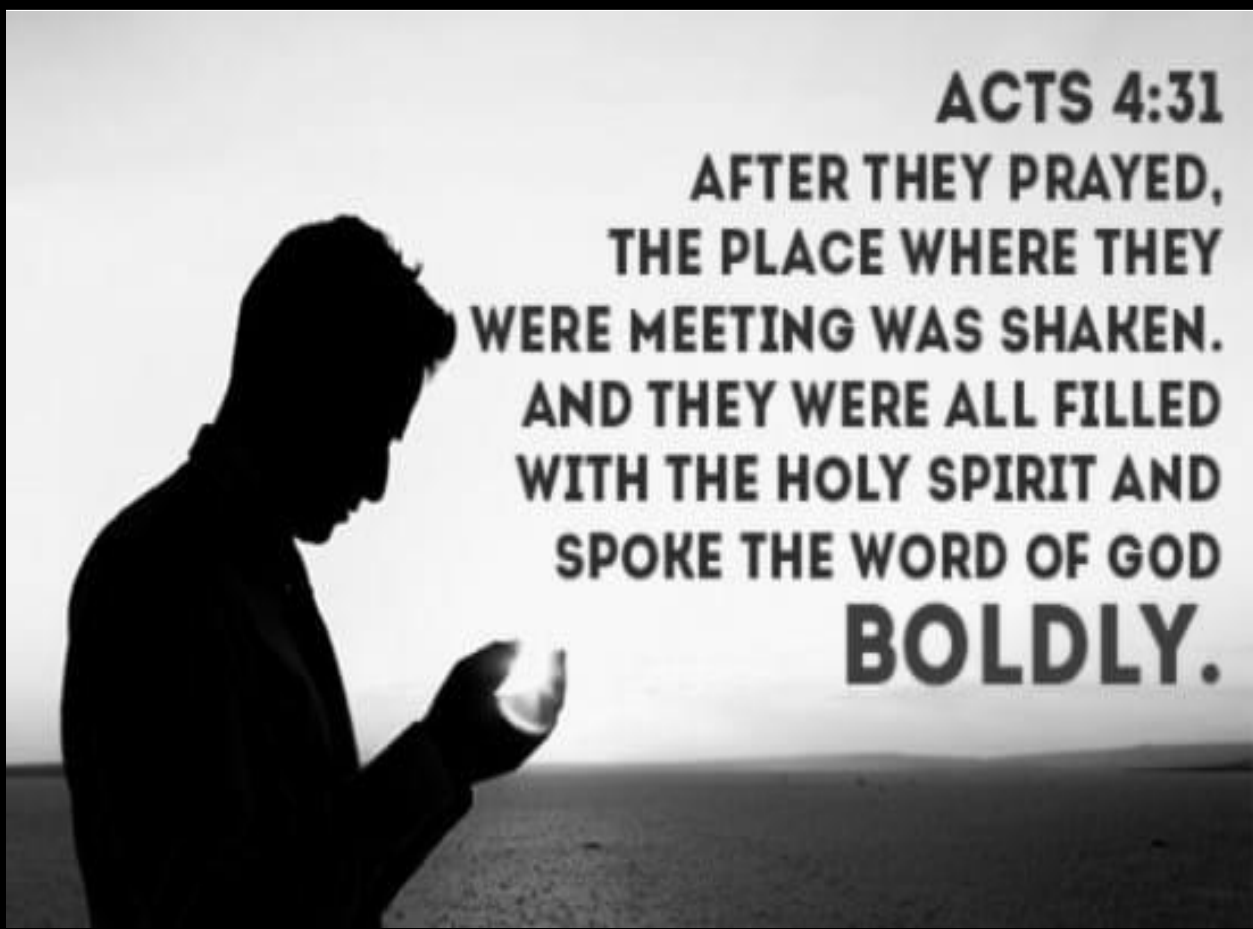


St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Third Sunday in Epiphany
January 25/26, 2025

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com
507-217-6364

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
office@stjohnsnewulm.com
facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
507-354-6744
bit.ly/SJyoutube

Pastor Rob Guenther
pastorguenther@gmail.com
507-240-2433

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY

January 25/26, 2025

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Dear God, too often we are timid or shy to talk about your love and grace to us in Christ. We fear the persecution or ridicule that might come our way for it. Forgive us for the times we've been too scared to talk about you. Thank you for the forgiveness we know that we have in Christ. Now embolden us to share the message of your law and gospel with courage and confidence. We ask it Jesus' name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Good News of God Above

CW 905

- 1 Good news of God above is ours to tell abroad,
 the Father's everlasting love in Christ the risen Lord.
 For neighbors near and far the seed of life is sown;
 then spread the seed by word and deed to make the Savior known.
- 2 The love of Christ proclaim, who left his home on high;
 to live our human life he came, our human death to die.
 The Father's only Son became the sinners' friend,
 our lot to share, our sin to bear, and death's dominion end.
- 3 The Lord of glory lives! From cross and death and grave
 his own abundant life he gives to those he died to save.
 His righteousness and peace declare from sea to sea;
 his praises sound the world around for Christ has made us free.
- 4 Hear now the Master's word to those who bear his name:
 “So send I you,” till all have heard, “make known, declare, proclaim!”
 Go forth in all the earth; embrace the path he trod
 with Christ beside as friend and guide to bring good news of God.

Stand

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

Amen.

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

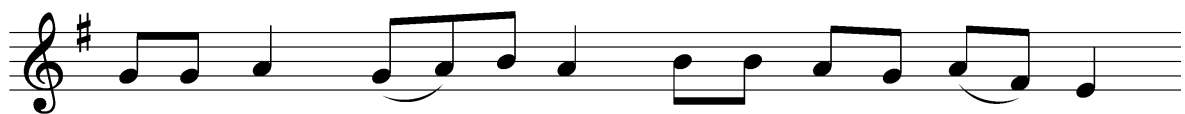
God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - be - ing



of the Church of God, and for the un - i - ty of all,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their



wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com-fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

GLORY TO GOD



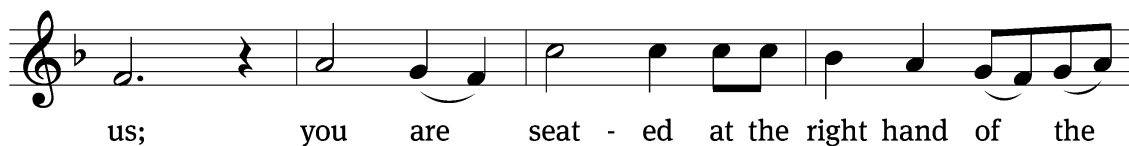
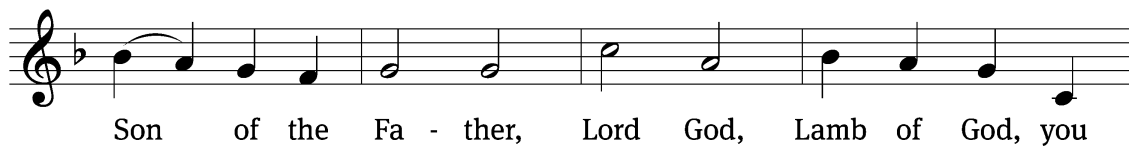
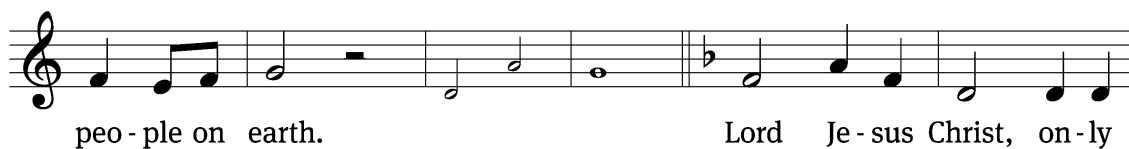
Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa-ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your





earth. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the



Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,



with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; 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

ANTHEM 8am

I Have Come

arr. Derek K Hakes

*I have come that you may have life, that you may have life abundantly.
I have come that you may have life, that you may have life abundantly.*

*I am the way, the truth, and life. No one comes to God but through me.
If you know me, my Father you'll know, you'll know and see. Refrain*

*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever would believe
in him shall not perish but have everlasting life, eternal joy! Refrain*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1–6

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.

⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.

⁵ Strangers will shepherd your flocks;
foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

⁶ And you will be called priests of the LORD,
you will be named ministers of our God.
You will feed on the wealth of nations,
and in their riches you will boast.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *I Will Praise the Lord All My Life* Psalm 146

Refrain



I will praise the LORD / all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live.
Do not put your trust in / princes,
in human beings, who / cannot save.
Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob,
whose hope is in the / LORD their God. *Refrain*

He upholds the cause of / the oppressed
and gives food to the / hungry.
The LORD sets / pris'ners free,
the LORD gives sight / to the blind.
The LORD reigns for- / ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the LORD.

**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

Acts 4:23–31

²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.”

²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

The Word of the Lord.

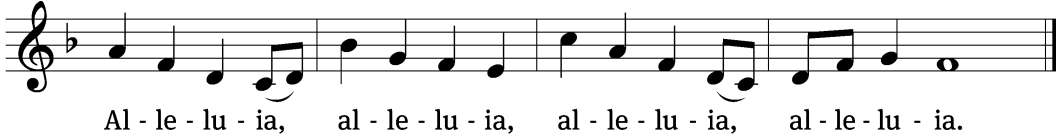
Thanks be to God.

Stand

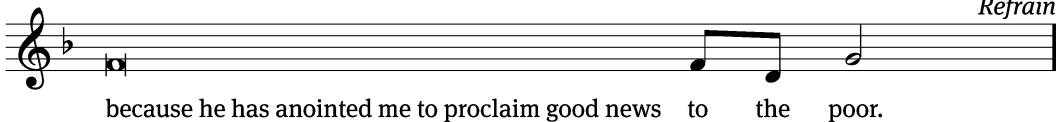
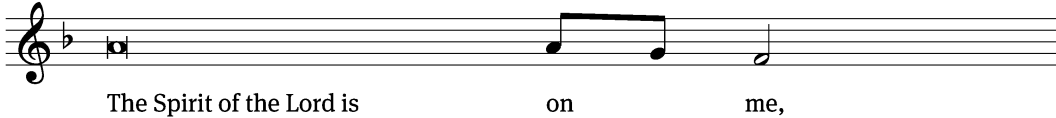
GOSPEL ACCLAMTION



Refrain



Tone



GOSPEL

Luke 4:16–30

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

²³ Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’ ”

²⁴ “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

- 1 I hear the Savior calling! The gospel comes to me;
my eyes, once closed in blindness, are opened now to see
that I myself was helpless to live eternally,
but, dying, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me!
- 2 I hear the Savior calling! He leads a soul to me,
a soul in bitter anguish, one needing to be free.
The gift I have to offer is Christ, my Lord's decree
that all have been forgiven; my Savior calls for me!
- 3 I hear the Savior calling! He gives this charge to me:
to serve the best I'm able, whate'er the call may be.
Thus hand in hand with others who share the gospel key
we spread the gospel tidings; my Savior calls for me!
- 4 I hear the Savior calling! He changes hearts for me;
from door to door I witness to share my Savior's plea.
Yet nothing can be added, no word on bended knee,
beyond the simple gospel; my Savior calls for me!
- 5 I hear the Savior calling! His call has urgency;
each moment souls are dying, soon comes eternity.
And so, my precious Savior, this is my humble plea:
prepare me for my mission, for you are calling me!

SERMON *Speak Boldly & Carry a Big Message*

Acts 4:23-31

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

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

HYMN

The Only Son From Heaven

CW 383

- 1 The only Son from heaven, foretold by ancient seers,
 by God the Father given, in human form appears.
 No sphere his light confining, no star so brightly shining
 as he, our Morning Star.
- 2 O time of God appointed, O bright and holy morn!
 He comes, the King anointed, the Christ, the virgin-born,
 grim death to conquer for us, to open heav'n before us
 and bring us life again.
- 3 O Lord, our hearts awaken to know and love you more,
 in faith to stand unshaken, in spirit to adore,
 that we, through this world moving, each glimpse of heaven proving,
 may reap its fullness there.
- 4 O Father, here before you with God the Holy Ghost
 and Jesus, we adore you, O Pride of angel host.
 Before you mortals lowly cry, "Holy, holy, holy
 O blessed Trinity!"

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Blessing

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.

CLOSING HYMN *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* CW 520

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
 the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
 to spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of your name.

- 3 The name of Jesus calms our fears and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
- 4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; he sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood avails for me.
- 5 See all your sins on Jesus laid; the Lamb of God was slain.
His life was once an off'ring made that you might live again.
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be ever, ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav'n.

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGAN

Prof. Jacob Behnken

GRADES 3-4 CHOIR

Emily Stoering

MLC LECTORS ~ Throughout the year, St. John's asks men who are studying for the pastoral ministry to read for a service. We are in a privileged position to see our Lord's answer to our prayers for future called workers.

6:30 pm	Caleb Chimielewski	Pilgram Lutheran, Menomonee Falls, WI
8 am	Luke Rogotzke	Zion Lutheran, Sanborn, MN
9:30 am	Jesse Childress	Abiding Peace, Simpsonville, SC
11 am	Greg Foote	Zion, Brighton Township, MN

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Psalms
Tuesday	7 pm	Voters' Meeting
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	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Feb. 2	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Psalms
Monday, Feb. 3	6:30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 4	7 pm	Women of St. John's
Wednesday, Feb. 5	3:30 pm	Homeschool & Public School Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Bible Information Class
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, Feb. 6	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Bible Class w/ Josh Koelpin
Friday, Feb. 7	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 385 with 270 receiving the Lord's Supper

Fruits of Faith:

\$43,766 Home Operations ~ Budgeted to Date: \$53,394 / Year to Date received: \$67,778

\$1,949 WELS Missions ~ Received to Date: \$4,347 (2024 Goal: \$87,000)

\$1,032 MVL ~ Received to Date: \$2,554 (2024 Goal: \$57,000)

\$20 Building Fund

\$130 St. Paul's School Building Fund

\$35 K-12 Education Assistance

\$18 Women of St. John's

\$20 LWMS

\$100 Benevolence Fund

St. John Food Shelf Volunteers ~ The 2025 schedule for the food shelf volunteers is in your church mailbox. Please contact Deb Beatty (507-276-2722) or Carla Melendy (507-217-9750) if you have any questions.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Host families needed ~ Martin Luther College is excited to host the WELS National Band Fest on March 7-9, 2025! The festival band is made up of band students from our WELS high schools across the nation. We are seeking welcoming local families to house those who are traveling distances to be here. Please contact Beth Scharf at events@mlc-wels.edu if you are willing to host or scan the QR code to complete the hosting form. Thank you!



Bingo Night ~ will be Wednesday, February 26, 2025!

The MLC Ladies' Auxiliary sponsors this highly anticipated event for all MLC students. We need your donations! The Auxiliary is currently asking for baked goods, quilts/blankets, and cash for gift cards. Please drop off donations at the MLC reception desk. Or mail them to 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm MN 56073. Questions? Please email mlcauxiliary@mlc-wels.edu or call 507.354.8221. Want to promote the event in your congregation? Visit our [Bingo website](#) for downloadable materials. Thank you from many grateful students!

Bus Drivers Needed at MVL ~ Here at MVL/Palmer Bus Service, we're excited to announce that we are now hiring bus drivers! As two of our valued drivers are retiring, we have an excellent opportunity for new team members to join our dedicated transportation family. This is more than just a job—it's a chance to make a real difference in your community by providing safe and reliable transportation for the MVL students. Our drivers play a crucial role in the lives of MVL students, ensuring they get to school, home, and extracurricular activities safely each day. As an MVL bus driver, you'll enjoy a flexible schedule that works around your life, imagine the joy of seeing your MVL students as you help transport them to their school or sporting events! We're looking for individuals who have a passion for community service, enjoy working with kids, and are ready to take on an important role in our transportation team. If you're someone who thrives on helping others and wants to make a meaningful difference, this is the perfect job for you. Current openings include both AM and PM route drivers and extracurricular activity drivers. We provide paid training and all expenses in getting your School Bus Drivers License. Apply today and join us in providing outstanding service to the families of MVL. If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to reach out to Ray Vulcan, Palmer Bus Service MVL Site Manager at 507-995-5387.

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.

Amazing Race ~ It sounds like the 2025 Amazing Race at St. Paul's School is going to be a fun and exciting event! Even if you don't have a team for the race itself, there are still plenty of activities to enjoy. Here's a quick breakdown of what's happening: **Date:** February 2, 2025 **Time:** 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM **Taco in a bag lunch:** 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Other activities:** Decorate your own cupcakes, lightning basketball games, and bean bags (noon - 2:30 PM) **All activities** shut down for 10 minutes at 12:55 PM for the start of the race **Silent Auction:** The online auction will be live from January 27 and will close at noon on February 2. Be sure to check out the auction items and place your bids at <https://virtualauction.bid/amazingrace2025>.

Make sure to mark your calendar for these events, and if you have any questions, you can reach out to Amy Rich at stampinnut@me.com.

Treasure Haus ~ The Treasure Haus Board of Directors announces the 2025 annual meeting. This annual meeting will be special as it will commemorate the 40th anniversary of support for Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School and contributions to many other ministry support groups. Members of the MVL Congregational Association and their numerous volunteers are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at MVL on March 16, 2025 beginning at 2:00pm. Those planning to attend must notify the planning committee by 1. signing up at the Treasure Haus, 2. emailing manager@treasurehaus.org 3. or calling the Treasure Haus 507-354-6108. All reservations must be received by February 15, 2025. There will be musical entertainment by MVL students, a trivia quiz game on our

history, displays of historical memorability, and a tour of the new MVL addition. Join us to recognize God's blessings as we continue "serving one another in love."