

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



First Sunday in Advent

November 29/30, 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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29/30, 2025

Welcome, Visitors! Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Heavenly Father, sometimes we try to "climb the mountain of success" to make a name for ourselves. Sometimes we try to "climb the mountain of our sin" by trying to make up for those sins and earn forgiveness from you. But today you again show us the "Mountain of the Lord," Mount Calvary, where your Son paid for our sins and won for us perfect peace between us and you. Thank you for that forgiveness that you've given us. Now help us to be at peace with one another, and to share this message of peace, as we express our thanks to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE	Service Setting 1	pg. 155
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OPENING HYMN	<i>The Advent of Our King</i>	CW 309
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Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS		pg. 155
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LORD HAVE MERCY		pg. 156
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GLORY TO GOD		pg. 157
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PRAYER OF THE DAY		pg. 160
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Be seated

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ² In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Welcome the King

Psalm 24B

Refrain

Wel - come the King of glo - ry, each tribe and na - tion!

He is the LORD Al - might - y, bring - ing sal - va - tion.

Verses



- 1 See, all the earth is God's, its peo - ple and na - tions;
- 2 Who can go up this moun - tain, who stand in prais - ing?
- 3 They shall re - ceive for - give - ness, and have God's bless - ing
- 4 Come, lift your voic - es high, be lift - ed to glo - ry;

Refrain (sung after each verse)



God built it on the deeps and laid its foun - da - tions.
Those who are pure, who come with clean hands up - rais - ing.
if they will search for God, their Sav - ior con - fess - ing.
the LORD our God ap - proach - es, come, shout the sto - ry.

- 5 Who is this glorious one, for whom we are waiting?
We wait the mighty LORD, our God celebrating. (Refrain)
- 6 Come, lift your heads with joy; come, lift up your tower;
the King of glory comes in full might and power. (Refrain)
- 7 Who is this King of glory of whom we're singing?
Our God, this LORD of hosts, the vict'ry is bringing. (Refrain)

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Philippians 2:10



Refrain



Tone



GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

¹ As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come

CW 301

SERMON

See the Mountain of the Lord!

Isaiah 2:1-5

I. The Highest Mountain There Is

II. The Most Peaceful Mountain There Is

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. 164

OFFERING

HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

CW 713

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSING

pg. 171

CLOSING HYMN

O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort

CW 326

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGANIST

Becky Berg

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Monday	6:30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday	11 am	Advent Midweek Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Advent Midweek Service
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	5:15 pm	Handbells
	7:30 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class
	7 pm	Bible Class
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Dec 7	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
		https://bit.ly/SJBibleClassonline
Monday Dec 8	7 pm	Board of Youth and Ed.
Wednesday, Dec 10	11 am	Advent Midweek Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Advent Midweek Service
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7:30 pm	Choir
Thursday, Dec 11	10 am	Bible Class
	7 pm	Bible Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 584.

Fruits of Faith:

\$32,519 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$818,704 / YTD: \$802,578
\$2,144 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$91,590 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)
\$637 MVL ~ YTD: \$56,571 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)
\$55 Building Fund
\$70 K-12 Education Assistance
\$165 Iris Boxes
\$25 Wish List
\$85 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$39 Women of St. John's
\$129 Food and Fellowship
\$106 Miscellaneous Income

Gift Cards for Nontraditional (second career) MLC students ~ Women of St. John's will be collecting gift cards (or funds to purchase them) through Sunday, December 7th to give our 19 nontraditional MLC students for Christmas. There is a collection box on the table in the new narthex if you would like to contribute. Please contact Sarah Logston (507-766-6455) with any questions.

Women of St. John's Ladies' Night Out Christmas Party ~ We will be gathering at Carl's Corner in Essig on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6 p.m. for a meal and some fellowship activities. Please note that payment is by cash only and we will be ordering off the menu that evening. Parking is very limited, so carpooling is strongly encouraged. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the new narthex to indicate if you plan to attend and if you need a ride (or can provide one). Please sign up by November 24th so a final headcount can be given to the restaurant a week in advance. Contact Sarah Logston (507-766-6455) with any questions.

Grand Piano on the Wish List ~ St. John's Worship Committee would like to replace the piano in the front of the church. The existing piano was not designed for a large space seating 350 people, but for a house or small music studio. The council has approved that a new 5-foot Yamaha grand piano (to be placed in the front of the sanctuary near the lectern) be added to the wish list. This piano would enrich our worship as it fills the church with sound. It's known for its stability of tuning and action and delivers a clear sound that would accompany the congregation and choirs well. The cost is approximately \$21,400 for the piano, delivery and installation, and all needed accessories. If you are interested in contributing to this worship enhancement, please note "Piano" on your offering envelope or electronic gift. To God be the glory!

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Ulm Food Shelf Volunteers ~ St. John's supports the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf by providing volunteers to assist clients on the third Monday of each month from 11:45-3 pm. Duties include accompanying clients as they select their food options based on distribution guidelines, weighing and loading carts, and pushing them to the garage, where clients load their items into their cars. Four volunteers are needed on the third Monday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering for 2026, please indicate your availability on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. For more information, or if you have questions, call Carla Melendy (507-217-9750) or Deb Beatty (507-276-2722). You will receive a volunteer schedule in December, along with guidelines for volunteers.

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm on Monday, December 8 for our annual Christmas gathering. Fellowship begins at 11:40 AM. The MLC student(s) will present the Christmas message with songs from 12:10 - 12:50 PM. A catered meal from Joni's will follow. To help subsidize the costs not covered by Thrivent Action Team moneys, each attendee will be asked to donate \$5. If you have not signed up and plan to attend, contact Myron Fluegge via phone, 507-359-2424 or email, flueggemtj@hotmail.com by Wednesday noon, December 3 for a meal count. Hope you can make it.

St. Paul's Band ~ The Raider Band program will present its December concert on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 pm in the St. Paul gymnasium. We will start off with a sacred sing along with the reading of Luke 2 by the 5th graders. Many small groups will present our favorite carols in instrumental praise as well. The Raider band will play all the music from The Nutcracker in 3 minutes. Don't believe me? Come and find out for yourself! Finally, the Mass Band will wow you with 12 Joyous Days of Christmas playing percussion toys, kazoos and SINGING! Yep, a singing band! Don't miss out on the fun! Come join us!

MLC Christmas Concert ~ Martin Luther College invites you to the annual Christmas concert, For Us and For Our Salvation, presented Saturday, December 13, at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 pm in the MLC Chapel of the Christ. All are welcome as we open the Advent season with this joyous campus tradition!

Treasure Haus ~ Do you love treasure hunts, vintage finds, or simply helping others? Join the Treasure Haus family and support our ministry as we fund Christian education at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School. We have many opportunities to serve with openings at the register, sorting and pricing incoming donations while providing a welcoming atmosphere for customers. We would love to welcome you to our team and will find just the right task to fit your schedule and our needs. Please contact us at 507-354-6108 and ask to speak with a manager.

Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) ~ is a WELS/ELS affiliated ministry that provides Christ-centered support to Military Service Members, Veterans, and their families through the following programs:

Spiritual Retreats & Workshops: A four-day Spiritual Retreat for Christian Warriors and their spouses is offered to those who have experienced spiritual wounds and trauma related to their military experience. Similar one-day workshops have been held for Veterans and First Responders in Wisconsin, Arizona, and Washington. Over 240 people have grown spiritually through these small and focused events. **Scholarships & Grants:** Scholarships are available to male and female Veterans pursuing public ministry, along with pastors who serve near military installations. In 2025, nineteen scholarships were awarded. Grants support WELS/ELS Military Service Members when they are in need, to recognize their service at a congregational level, and to support military ministry throughout both synods. Since 2015, over \$380,000 has been awarded to support military ministry through grants and scholarships.

Christian Service Members' Handbook: This printed resource includes prayers, Scripture, hymns, Luther's Small Catechism, and devotional resources specific to those in military service. Since 2020, more than 4000 copies have been distributed. LMSG aims to provide spiritual encouragement, mental health support, and Christian community for Military Service Members, Veterans, and their families. Your financial support through the Ammo Can Campaign, monthly gifts, or donor advised funds makes this ministry possible. Thank you for your support and prayers! For more information, go to www.lutheranmilitary.org.