

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



*"... so that he may have mercy
on them all."*

~ Romans 13:32b

Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6/7, 2024

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

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
office@stjohnsnewulm.com
 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
354-6744

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

Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

Prayer before worship: God, we thank and praise you that your mercy is not just for some but for all. We thank you that your mercy is for us. Help us to live for you in thanks for the mercy you've shown us. Help us to share the message of your mercy for all with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Two* page 172

OPENING HYMN *As with Gladness Men of Old*

CW372

CONFESSION

p. 172

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 24:15–17a

¹⁵Then he spoke his message: “The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor, the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly, ¹⁶the prophecy of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: ¹⁷I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 72E



1Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son! Hail,
2He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong, to
3Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring; all
4O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest, from

in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun! He
help the poor and need - y and bid the weak be strong, to
na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing. To
age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest. The

comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free, to
give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light whose
him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend, his
tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move; his

take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
name shall stand for - ev - er - that name to us is Love.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 11:13–15,28–32

¹³I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

²⁸As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³²For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

We saw his star when it rose and have come to wor - ship him. *Refrain*

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they

saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW370

SERMON

Romans 11:13-15, 28-32

God Has Mercy on Us All

I. It's for Us

II. It's for Them

NICENE CREED

p. 180

OFFERING/ COMMUNION

If you are not a member of a WELS/ELS congregation, please see the explanation in the announcements.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

CW674

PRAYERS (*Contemporary*) **and BLESSING**

p. 187

† † †

PREACHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGAN

Pastor Rob Guenther

Pastor Jeff Bovee

Pastor Jacob Behnken

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the code to
sign our Guest Register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Mon	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
Wed	10 am	Catechism
Thu	10:30 am	Bible Class: TBD
	7 pm	Bible Class: The Hard Sayings of Jesus
Fri	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Book of Esther
Sat	8 am	Properties Meeting
	9 am	Cards of Caring at 403 N. Minnesota St.
	3 pm	Winter Carnival at St. Paul's Lutheran School
	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 14	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	11 am	New Officer Installation
Jan 15	10:30 am	Stewardship Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Jan 16	7 pm	Council Meeting
Jan 17	10 am	Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Jan 18	10:30 am	Bible Class: TBD
	7 pm	Bible Class: The Hard Sayings of Jesus
Jan 19	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Book of Esther
Jan 20	11 am	Funeral Service for Ikuko Poetter
	6:30 pm	Worship
Jan 21	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	11 am	Gr. 1-4 sing
Jan 23	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Annual Voters' Meeting
Jan 24	10 am	Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Jan 25	10:30 am	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
	7 pm	Bible Class: The Hard Sayings of Jesus
Jan 26	7 am	Early Bird Bible Class: TBD
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Book of Esther
	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
	6 & 7:30 pm	St. John's Night at MVL (Boys' Basketball)

Go to www.stjohnsnewulm.com/calendar for more events

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 325.

Fruits of faith given:

\$47,573	Home Operations		
\$500	MVL	\$400	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$620	Missions	\$175	K-12 Education Assistance
\$400	Building Fund	\$100	Technology Equipment
\$1,230	75th Ann. Sanctuary Renovation	\$50	Endowment Fund
\$60	Ministerial Education Endowment Fund	\$50	Church Library Fund
\$200	Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund	\$5	Lutheran Charities

Annual Voters' Meeting ~ will be Tuesday, January 23 at 7 pm.

Offering Baskets ~ We will return to passing offering baskets during our services beginning on this weekend. The offering box will be available near the office for offerings that are dropped off during the week outside of service times.

2024 Contribution Envelopes ~ The 2024 offering envelopes can be found either in your bulletin box or in alphabetical order on the tables in the new narthex. To ensure you receive proper credit, please do not use the 2024 envelopes until January 1st. New numbers will change for many people with the 2024 envelopes. Please don't use the 2023 envelopes in 2024. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sanctuary Screens ~ Thanks to Jim Dretske for coordinating and helping install our screens that were paid for by designated funds. If you would be interested in advancing slides for services, please contact Staff Minister, Jim Dretske at sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com or fill out an interest survey online at <https://bit.ly/SJScreenSurvey>.

Cards of Caring ~ will meet this winter to continue to make cards for our homebound and thinking-of-you members, and for our three LWMS Befriend a Mission families. All supplies are furnished. If you are unable to create cards, we have other tasks you may do. We welcome those from 7th grade and older including MLC students. Our next dates are Saturday, January 13 and February 10. We meet from 9 am until noon. Come any time between those hours. We meet at 403 N. Minnesota St. (across from the Glockenspiel). This is an opportunity for fellowship and service to the Lord. Contact Lois Willems at 507-676-1230 with questions.

Senior Choir Rehearsals ~ will begin Wednesday, January 17th at 7 pm in the balcony. All are welcome to join!

Handbell Ringers Needed! ~ Join the Handbell Choir for a fun and unique fellowship opportunity! There are openings in the group! You don't need to be able to read music. The notes are color coded for all levels of experience. Come join the fun! For more information contact Becky Berg at rberg@mvlhs.org.

Pictorial Directory Update ~ Members, please submit a picture to sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com or have me take your picture before or after services during December if you are not pictured in our PEW Copy of our 2023 St John's Directory. If your picture is included but you would like to update it, you can do the same. You could also change it on your phone or computer by logging into your account and editing the picture yourself. Pew Copies will be updated in January. New Directories will be available upon request once the information and pictures have been updated.

Offering Announcement ~ Visitors, there is no obligation or expectation that you should give to support our ministry at St. John's. This is our members' way of expressing their thanks to God and supporting the work that we do to share the Gospel in New Ulm and around the world. Members, you are invited to give your gifts of gratitude and thanks to God for all he's done for you in Christ by leaving your offerings in the drop box in the narthex. Or you can bring your offerings to the church during regular office hours: Mondays through Fridays, 8 am - 1 pm. You might also consider taking advantage of your bank's online bill pay service and have your offering automatically sent to the church on a one time or recurring basis.

Communion Announcement: 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.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) will meet on Monday, January 8 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm. Fellowship begins at 11:30 am with a pot luck meal at noon. After a devotion, we will have a presentation by Bonnie Schirlinger entitled, "What it is like to be Blind." Hope you can attend.

Volunteers Needed ~ John and Paul Ministries Winter Carnival outreach event is January 13, from 3:00 - 5:30 pm. Many hands are needed to provide our community and congregations a quality event, so please join our team by registering online at johnandpaulministries.com. Questions? Reach out to event coordinator Beth Scharf at scharfbm@mlc-wels.edu. Thank you!

Winter Carnival at St. Paul's ~ Join John and Paul Ministries for WINTER CARNIVAL on January 13, 2024, at St Paul's Lutheran School from 3:00-5:30 pm! Enjoy a fun afternoon of bounce houses, snacks, prizes, games, indoor snowball fights, and winter Escape Rooms! Can't wait to see you there and bring a friend!

WELS Night at the Timberwolves! ~ Sunday, January 14 at 6 pm! Tickets purchased with the discount offer will have the opportunity to shoot a free throw on the court after the game! Scan the QR code and use promo code: 2324WELS. Contact Cameron Schwarz at 612-673-1647 or cameron.schwarz@timberwolves.com with questions.

St. Paul's Preschool Open House ~ Monday, January 15, 2024, from 4 – 7 pm! New preschoolers, please come and visit! 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 (New Ulm & Sleepy Eye) and St. Paul's members and our school families are invited to have first choice of preschool sessions through January 15th. (Community "Open Registration" begins January 16th. Some sessions fill by early February). If you have questions, please contact our preschool director, Mrs. Heidi Meyer at preschool@splnewulm.org.

Housing Needed for International Student ~ MVL would like to host a young man from Germany next year. However, we are in need of a host family willing to open their home to this young man. He will only be with us for one semester, which means he will arrive in late August and then leave just before Christmas. Host families are compensated for serving in this capacity. If you are interested, please contact MVL Principal Tim Plath at tplath@mvlhs.org or 507-354-6851.

Staff Minister Jim Dretske
Teacher Christine Baganz
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Phil Scriver
Teacher Emily Stoering
St. John's Church Office

sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com
cbaganz@splnewulm.org
lbalsa@splnewulm.org
pscriver@splnewulm.org
estoering@splnewulm.org
office@stjohnsnewulm.com

About the Cover ~ God's mercy isn't just for a few. It's not just for the Jews. It's for Gentiles too. It's for me. It's for you. We rejoice that God's grace and forgiveness are for every person. We find comfort and peace in that truth, since there is no doubt that it's for us. But we also find motivation to serve God in thanksgiving by sharing the message of his mercy with all who will listen. May God help us in our efforts to do so.