



## February 2026

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## Glory & Dishonor & Extreme Salvation

**Luke 9:28-36** About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters-- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

As we walk with the Gospel writers through the Church Year, before leaving Epiphany behind and setting foot on the Lenten road, we come to the Mount of Transfiguration. It is really the event which bridges the two events together and gives us the full picture of Christ's mission.

In the Epiphany of our Lord, Jesus was made manifest as the Savior of the whole world. He had come to redeem all people, both Jews and Gentiles, by living in their place and by dying on the cross for their sins. A star directed the way of the wise men who sought him. The glorious promise of peace and reconciliation with God was now fulfilled before the eyes of the world in the person of Jesus Christ. But it was glory hidden in a little baby born under very humble circumstances.

In Lent we see the passion of the Christ, that is, the suffering, mockery, and death of our Lord. We see the curse of sin laid upon the righteous Son of God who had become a curse for us by bearing our guilt on the cross.

The Lenten road which ends at the tomb, where the seemingly unmovable stone is placed in our path at the mouth of the sepulcher. However, ultimately it becomes the road to joy as the angel moves the stone out of our way in order to allow to see that the Christ is no longer there, for he is risen.

From glory to dishonor, and from humility to exaltation... The strange and mysterious work of Jesus Christ goes from one extreme to another. So it is with the Transfiguration of our Lord. There, on the otherwise unknown mount, Jesus takes three of his apostles and is transfigured before them. His garments shine like lightning and his face gleams as the sun. This takes place only about six to eight days after Jesus has told his followers that he is going to Jerusalem in order to be crucified.

Jesus had to make his way to the cross to die for our sins or we would have been lost eternally in hell. Jesus had to be crucified so that

with his blood he could pay our debt to God and take away our guilt.

To sinners who, due to our sinful nature, fail to understand the extreme work of salvation, Jesus manifests his glory. He is transfigured before our eyes in order to remind us that his Epiphany really does not end with Lent. He is still the Lord of lords and the King of kings. He is not Elijah, as some suspected, but he appears with Elijah and Moses, men of God, to show that his message is one and the same with theirs, but even greater. He would be the fulfillment of their message. Although disguised in human flesh, he is still God. He has come to accomplish the mission for which God sent him.

The Bible says, Jesus, Moses, and Elijah spoke about Jesus' departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. The Greek word for departure is exodus, literally, the "road out." Jesus would indeed leave this world in death, but would return again, alive and glorified. His exodus would also be an exodus for us, for he would lead us out of the slavery of sin, just as Moses led the exodus of Israel out of Egypt.

Therefore, as we leave the Mount of Transfiguration and set foot on the Lenten path which leads to pain, sorrow, suffering and death for our Lord, we can also know that, just as the Israelites finally reached the

Land of Promise, even so, the fulfillment of a much greater promise awaits us. We can leave the Mount and enter the valley with the vision of the glorified Christ. We can know that even as he hangs on the cross and cries out in the agony of hell itself, he is still God. We can be certain that even as he is placed in the tomb, it is not the end. He shall rise, and the glory hidden in human flesh will once again shine forth in even greater measure than at the Transfiguration.

What is more, the mountain top experience with our Lord is for us the down payment, so to speak, which secures the promise that the rest is coming. We have the deposit guaranteeing the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, and life everlasting.

At the zenith of the Epiphany is the Transfiguration. But from the Mount we go down to the valley in order to enter Lent. From one extreme to another we walk with Christ. But we can be also be sure that the pains and sorrows of this life will eventually be replaced by something much better. From one extreme to another we walk with Christ, until from sin, death, and sorrow, we shall enter into peace, joy, and life forever in heaven.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee

## February Sermon Texts

February 8	1 Peter 2:9-12	"Who Are You?"
February 15	2 Peter 1:16-21	The Eye-witness Account of the Inspired Writers
February 22	Romans 5:12-19	It Only Takes One

## Bible Class meets in the Church Basement

The class can also be found online at [bit.ly/SJBibleClass](http://bit.ly/SJBibleClass)

Sundays at 9:30am	2 Thessalonians	Pastor Jeff Bovee
Thursdays at 10am	A Simple Way to Pray	Pastor Jeff Bovee
Thursdays at 7pm	The Life of David	Pastor Rob Guenther

## **Council Digest**

No Council Digest.

### **Financial Peace University**

We strive to be good managers of the gifts God gives us, including our finances. We will be offering an abbreviated version of this financial course on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 am in the Church Library. We will meet on February 1, 8, 15, and 22. Please contact Staff Minister Kuschel (kkuschel@splnewulm.org) with any questions or if you are interested in joining this class.

### **WELS Group Outing to Les Misérables in Minneapolis**

Father's World Tours and the MLC Student Senate invite WELS/ELS members to join us on Tue, Feb 17, for an evening of professional theater as we venture to the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis and experience Les Misérables, the world's most popular musical. Ticket cost is just \$85 and includes round trip motorcoach transportation from your choice of MLC in New Ulm; Trinity in Nicollet, or Arby's in St Peter. Limited spots are available. Visit <https://bit.ly/mlclesmis26>.

### **Ask the Pastors Night**

Come to the next “Ask the Pastor” evening, February 19, 7-8pm and bring a friend! We have had several “Ask the Pastor” events which have turned out to be fun and learning-filled evenings. Bring your questions that evening or place your questions in the box on the table in the narthex area. There is a sign-up sheet next to the box to help us plan for refreshments. Hope to see you there!

## Library News

We have two Northwestern Publishing House publications to add to our library, and one fiction. Roy Hefti, a retired pastor, wrote “Ephesians”, a devotional commentary. This book has 14 devotions as the author goes through Ephesians section by section. He explains the Plan of God that St. Paul, the writer of Ephesians, written while he was in prison in Rome is a plan for everyone, not just Jews. Gentiles are included also in God’s Plan and they are everyone else, including us. Paul also shares wisdom of how we all should behave and can show our love to Jesus. Paul also wants his readers to pray for him.

Our second non-fiction title from NPH is “Positively Lutheran”, a simple statement of what Lutherans believe. Early Christians 2000 years ago, used a secret sign to identify themselves to other Christians. The sign was a fish (Ichthus in Greek) which meant “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior”. John Braun, director of NPH, explains each of these topics. 1500 years later the thoughts of Jesus as Savior had gotten garbled over the Middle Ages until Martin Luther brought the Scriptures back to center stage. God’s Word, the Bible, and Jesus are the basis for Lutheran faith. Everyone is a sinner and needs Jesus as Savior. That is what the Bible tells us. So go tell everyone.

We also have a fiction book to introduce. “Moonlight Masquerade” by Ruth Axtell. The story takes place during the Napoleonic era when France and Britain are at odds with each other. Rees is sent by the British Home Office to be a butler in the house of Lady Wexham, a widow who is suspected of being a spy for France. She speaks French and English, but so does Rees, secretly. The two of them work together well. But how can they square any feelings for each other, since they are on separate sides?

Jesus loves us all year, not just in February.

LeiLani Rahn

## Women of St. John’s

At our January meeting, we voted on our quarterly mission projects and the following were selected for 2026:

316NOW - A ministry committed to bringing the gospel to the Chinese people by empowering Chinese Christian leaders and churches through Bible study, mentoring and consulting. Learn more at [316now.org](http://316now.org).

WELS Mission for the Visually Impaired - Helps congregations share God's Word with those who cannot see or who because of visual impairment or a print impairment cannot read a book or other printed material. Learn more at [wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/visually-impaired](http://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/visually-impaired).

WELS Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Offers resources to aid ministry to people who are deaf or have any degree of hearing loss. Learn more at [wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/deaf-and-hard-of-hearing](http://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/deaf-and-hard-of-hearing).

WELS Campus Ministry - Provides resources, support and encouragement to WELS congregations that serve college students around the US and Canada. Learn more at [wels.net/campusministry](http://wels.net/campusministry).

# St. Paul's School

## Lutheran Schools Week 2026: A New Look for VIP Days!

We are gearing up for Lutheran Schools Week 2026, February 8-12! As one of the highlights of our school year, this is a time to celebrate the unique blessings of Christian, Lutheran education and the blessings that we share in our St. Paul's family. We are excited to unveil a "fresh look" for this year's festivities, designed to make the experience even more meaningful for our families and guests. We also hope to alleviate some of the space-related challenges that come with our large family!

**A New Way to VIP:** The biggest and most exciting change involves our beloved VIP Day. In the past, we have gathered everyone together at once. However, to truly let our guests get the St. Paul's experience, we are transforming this into a two-day event!

We want our VIPs to have more than just a visit; we want them to see our students in action. By spreading the celebration out, we can welcome guests directly into the classrooms to witness the learning, growing, and faith-building that happens every day.

**When Should You Attend?** To ensure our classrooms are comfortable and conducive to visits, we are splitting the days alphabetically by last name:

Monday, February 9: Families with last names A–L

Tuesday, February 10: Families with last names M–Z

**Note for Preschool Families:** Please invite your VIPs to attend on the day your child is normally scheduled to be at school.

**What to Expect:** VIPs are invited to rotate between classrooms. If a guest has multiple students to visit, they are welcome to stay for all the necessary rotations to see everyone! It is a wonderful opportunity to witness "aha!" moments in real time.

Other highlights from the week include the children singing at the 9:30 am service at the churches in New Ulm on February 8; parent lunch on Wednesday, February 11; and our pep rally on Thursday, February 12.

If you would like specific information, please contact the school, [school@splnewulm.org](mailto:school@splnewulm.org)! We can't wait to celebrate with you! We are grateful for our partnership to provide Christian education to assist our families.

AND NOW THESE  
THREE REMAIN:  
FAITH,  
HOPE  
AND  
LOVE.  
BUT THE GREATEST OF  
THESE IS LOVE.

1 Corinthians 13:13

**NEW ULM, MN 56073**

FEBRUARY 2026

354-6744

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Correspondence</b> Pastor Jeffrey Bovee                      revbovee@gmail.com Pastor Rob Guenther                      pastorguenther@gmail.com Staff Minister Jim Dretske              sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com Church Office                              office@stjohnsnewulm.com Mike Thom                                  bookkeeper@stjohnsnewulm.com					<b><u>T.V. Service:</u></b> <b>Mondays: 6 pm</b> <b>Tuesdays: 1 pm</b> <b>Thursdays: 10 am</b> <b>on</b> <b>Comcast Channel 14</b> <b>Nuvera Channel 3</b>	
1              Epiphany4 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM W/ COMMUNION  9:30 am    Bible Class	2      6:30 pm    Elders Meeting	3     7 pm        Women of St. John’s	4   6 pm        Handbells 6:30 pm    Public & Homeschool 7 pm        Catechism Choir	5 10 am    Bible Class  7 pm        Bible Class	6	7   

## Stewardship

St. John's began the year on January 1, 2025, with a balance of \$3,663 in the home operations fund. The Lord blessed St. John's with strong financial support in 2025. Receipts for the year were \$930,194. The ending balance of the Home Operations Fund was \$62,896. An increase of \$59,233.

The sanctuary renovation project was completed. Expenditures to date totaled \$84,766, and special gifts to this project amounted to \$67,557. The balance of expenses was paid from the building fund, which ended the year with a \$96,817 balance.

St. John's Endowment Fund experienced strong earnings in 2025. The beginning balance was \$344,409, and the ending balance was \$386,378. The endowment committee recommended a \$15,000 distribution from this fund, with \$5,000 designated to each of the following: St. John's K-8 Education Assistance Fund, targeted for need-based support; MLC/WLS Student Assistance Fund; and the piano for St. John's.

The Ministerial Education Endowment Fund received gifts of \$4,300 and had an ending balance of \$21,293.

The unrestricted WELS Investment Fund increased by \$8,290.

With modest gains in fund balances, 2025 most noticeably ended without deficit spending to cover expenses.

The 2026 budget is included in this annual report with an overall decrease of 3.4% from the previous year's budget.

May the Lord continue to bless St. John's.

Perry Meyer

Treasurer



# Central Africa Medical Mission

The Lutheran Mission Rural Health Centre (MLRHC) or Mwembezhi, is the Zambian arm of the Christian work being done by the Central Africa Medical Mission. The mission of the clinic is to demonstrate the Good News of Jesus Christ through a reflection of Christ's love and concern for the physical needs of others.

2025 saw a lot of activities that were deliberately meant to help the facility to meet its mission. One was when the clinic administrator had successful meetings with leaders of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa - Zambia that led to lay people coming to the facility to present the morning Bible devotions to staff and patients/clients. Thursday is the day that Pastor Titus Mbele would come and offer the morning devotion and later in the afternoon conduct a Bible study for both Martin Luther members (the congregation on the grounds of the clinic) and members of staff from the clinic. This has really brought great appreciation from the general members of the public; the morning devotion has been a powerful tool to spread the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The morning devotion presents our faith and teachings as Lutherans to others, indeed sharing the gospel to others is a great opportunity that MLRHC offers to the 25,000 patients who visit the clinic each year. Our staff are also reminded of the great love He demonstrated by sending for us our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is a reminder that we as Christians need to remain selfless and not to focus on personal gain or advantage but, instead to have compassion and actively focus on the care and needs of other people and to serve them with humility by valuing other people above self. Patients and clients come from very long distances to receive the health and spiritual care we offer; hence we must be a clinic that encourages, shows compassion in Christ and loves all people. In conclusion, it is very important to understand the mission that we have as individuals, especially in the career that God gives us. We are to be reflections of God's love, and we should look out for the interests of others, not just our own. Sadly, at times our careers become a source of pride which conflicts with serving others in humility. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." Philippians 2, vs 3. As God gives us another year, our prayer is that God continues to strengthen us through His Word and to help us serve others with humility and selflessness.

Alisad Banda  
Clinic Administrator – Zambia  
Clinic.cammz@gmail.com

**Current needs for supplies in Malawi.**

Short and long sleeve shirts and sweatshirts (24 months - 4T)

Sun hats (infant - adult)

Onesies (12 months - 2T)

Athletic pants/leggings (12 months - 4T)

Baby receiving blankets, socks, and hats

Sunscreen lotion (SPF 50)

Knitted/winter hats (infant - adult)

1 and 2 gallon Ziploc bags

Baby bottles

\*Malawi is not able to accept pill bottles at this time.

**ADDRESS BOXES FOR MALAWI**

LUTHERAN MOBILE CLINIC

P.O. Box 30339

Lilongwe 3, Malawi, AFRICA

**Current needs for supplies in Zambia.**

Baby receiving blankets, socks, and hats

Baby blankets of any kind

Sunscreen lotion (SPF 50)

AA batteries (dry cell not lithium)

1 and 2 gallon Ziploc bags

**ADDRESS BOXES FOR ZAMBIA**

LUTHERAN MISSION RURAL HEALTH CENTER

(Mwembezhi)

P.O. Box 310005

Chelston, Lusaka, Zambia, AFRICA

Additional shipping information and tips can be found on our website at [www.camm.us/howtohelp/](http://www.camm.us/howtohelp/)

# Happy Birthday!



- |    |                    |    |                  |
|----|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Sandra Borth       | 22 | Rachel Dauer     |
| 2  | Bruce Beatty       |    | Paul Gunderson   |
|    | Neil Schmidt       |    | Lavonne Lange    |
|    | Hazel Wiechmann    | 23 | Christine Baganz |
| 3  | Ronald Borth       |    | Karen Hoffmann   |
|    | Gerald Horner      |    | Isaak Pehling    |
| 4  | Jack Price         |    | Devon Thill      |
| 5  | Aaron Black        |    | Zachery Toltzman |
|    | Liliana Mohror     | 24 | Shari Black      |
|    | Lyla Newman        |    | Karrie Borchert  |
| 6  | Marlene Marti      |    | Ziva Zahrt       |
|    | Gage Stanoch       | 25 | Tonya Kowalke    |
| 7  | Gabriella Smith    |    | Steven Schroeder |
| 8  | Jesse Brandes      | 26 | Daniel Stoering  |
| 10 | Loren Weisensel    | 27 | Eunice Anderson  |
| 11 | Angela Lingl       |    | Joey Gilman      |
|    | Melody Neumann     |    | Diane Hirschmann |
|    | Julie Rolloff      |    | Linda Starke     |
| 13 | Frank Kral         |    | Nathan Wels      |
|    | Adeline Wiechmann  | 28 | Richard Kuckhahn |
| 14 | Tanner Johnson     |    | Maribeth Orth    |
| 15 | Grace Stoering     | 29 | Johanna Schaefer |
|    | Kelly Thom         |    | Ruth Schultz     |
|    | Frederick Toltzman |    | Weston Sriver    |
| 20 | Tyler Fischer      |    |                  |
|    | Kayla Martin       |    |                  |
|    | Keith Romsdahl     |    |                  |
| 21 | Charles Hussman    |    |                  |
|    | Helen Poehler      |    |                  |
|    | Norreen Ubel       |    |                  |

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church  
627 South Washington  
New Ulm MN 56073

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**FORTRESS**  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church • New Ulm, Minnesota

*Welcome to St. John's!*

627 S. Washington St.

507-354-6744

[www.stjohnsnewulm.com](http://www.stjohnsnewulm.com)

### *Worship Times*

Saturdays: 6:30 pm

Sundays: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

and online at:

[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Search: Saint John's New Ulm

### *Adult Bible Class*

(In person and online at: [bit.ly/SJBibleClass](https://bit.ly/SJBibleClass))

Sundays: 9:30 am

Thursdays: 10 am & 7 pm

### *Sunday School*

Sundays: 9:30 am

### *Staff*

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee

[revbovee@gmail.com](mailto:revbovee@gmail.com)

Pastor Rob Guenther

[pastorguenther@gmail.com](mailto:pastorguenther@gmail.com)

Staff Minister Jim Dretske

[sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com](mailto:sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com)

Church Office

[office@stjohnsnewulm.com](mailto:office@stjohnsnewulm.com)

Bookkeeper

[bookkeeper@stjohnsnewulm.com](mailto:bookkeeper@stjohnsnewulm.com)