

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 24/25, 2026

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
revboeve@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 AFTER EPIPHANY

January 24/25, 2026

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



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, by mercy and love you "caught us" in the "net" of your grace. We are yours. Thank you! Now, help us to live for you as you employ us to go and "catch" others by spreading the message of your grace and become fishers of people. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE *Service Setting 2* pg. 172

OPENING HYMN *O Christ, Our True and Only Light* CW 904

Stand

CONFESSİON OF SİNS pg. 172

LORD HAVE MERCY pg. 174

GLORY TO GOD pg. 176

PRAYER OF THE DAY pg. 178

Be seated

ANTHEM 8am

Arise, Shine

arr. Kenneth T. Kosche

*Arise, shine, for thy light has come; arise, shine, for thy light has come,
And the glory of the Lord, the glory of the Lord, the glory of the Lord has risen on thee.
Arise, shine.*

*For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and great darkness shall cover the people:
but the Lord shall arise and God's glory be seen upon thee. And the nations shall come
unto thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

*Arise, shine for thy light has come; arise, shine, for thy light has come,
And the glory of the Lord, the glory of the Lord, the glory of the Lord has risen on thee.
Arise, shine. Arise, shine!*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 8:19-9:4

¹⁹ When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰ Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. ²¹ Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. ²² Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

¹ Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation* Psalm 27C

Refrain

The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion— of
whom shall I be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

Tone

Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;
be merciful to me and / answer me.
Do not hide your / face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.
Do not reject me or for- / sake me,
God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,
the LORD will re- / ceive me.
I remain confi- / dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.
Wait / for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait / for 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 LESSON

1 John 2:3-11

³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.
⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him:
⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 9:2

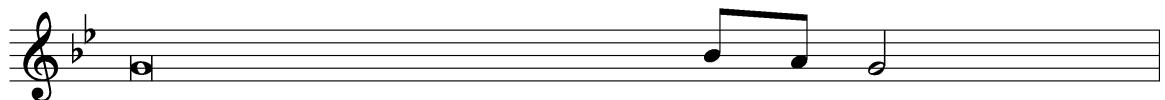


Refrain



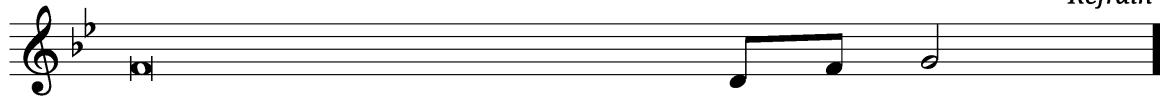
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

Refrain



on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴ to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the

lake, for they were fishermen.¹⁹ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them,²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult* CW 711

SERMON Go Fish! Matthew 4:12-23

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED pg. 181

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH pg. 182

OFFERING

HYMN *Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake* CW 702

Stand

CLOSING HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

CW 704

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGANIST (Saturday)

Josiah Smith

ORGANIST (Sunday)

Adrian Smith

GRADES 3-4

Miss Micaiah Wagner

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 | Austin Haley | St. John's Lutheran Church, Waterloo, WI |
| 8 am | Grant Klas | St. John's Lutheran Church, Fox Lake, WI |
| 9:30 am | Preston Ballentine | Abiding Peace Lutheran, Simpsonville, SC |

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 8 & 9:30 am | Worship |
| | 9:30 pm | Bible Class – 2 Thessalonians |
| | 9:30 pm | Sunday School |
| | 11 am | Jim Dretske Retirement Celebration |
| | 12 pm | Reception for Jim Dretske |
| Monday | 6:30 pm | Worship Meeting |
| Wednesday | 6:30 pm | Public and Homeschool Catechism |
| | 7 pm | Choir |
| Thursday | 10 am | Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray |
| | 7 pm | Bible Class – The Life of David |
| Saturday | 6:30 pm | Worship |

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday, Feb. 1 st | 8, 9:30 & 11 am | Worship |
| | 9:30 pm | Bible Class – 2 Thessalonians |
| | 9:30 pm | Sunday School |
| Monday, Feb. 2 nd | 6 pm | Elders' Meeting |
| Tuesday, Feb. 3 rd | 4 pm | Oak Hills |
| | 7 pm | Women of St. John's |
| Wednesday, Feb. 4 th | 11:30 am | Stewardship Meeting @ MLC |
| | 6:30 pm | Public and Homeschool Catechism |
| | 7 pm | Choir |
| Thursday, Feb. 5 th | 10 am | Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray |
| | 7 pm | Bible Class – The Life of David |
| Saturday, Feb. 7 th | 6:30 pm | Worship |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 437 with 328 receiving the Lord's Supper.

Fruits of Faith:

\$44,023 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$51,688 / YTD: \$64,545
\$2,525 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$4,611 (2026 Goal: \$100,425)
\$570 MVL ~ YTD: \$2,513 (2026 Goal: \$62,000)
\$615 Wish List: Piano ~ YTD: \$6,825 (\$21,400)
\$135 Building Fund
\$50 K-12 Education Assistance
\$85 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$7 Food + Fellowship
\$60 St. Paul's School
\$60 Martin Luither College
\$25 Iris Boxes
\$40 Designated Miscellaneous

Voters' Meeting ~ Mark your calendars for the St. John's Annual Voters' Meeting, January 27, 2026, at 7 PM! To make good use of our time together, we'll use a consent agenda, so the meeting materials will be available this Sunday at the table adjacent to the narthex mailboxes—perfect for a thoughtful read with coffee. Come ready to engage, ask questions, and help us move forward together.

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!

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!

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Volleyball Tournaments ~ MLC is once again hosting their annual WELS church volleyball tournaments. The men play on Sat, March 21 and the women compete on Sat, Mar 28. St John’s competed for many years and it was a great fellowship/bonding event. If you are interested in playing and/or coordinating the team, please contact the church office for registration information. The entry fee is just \$60 and the deadline to register a team is Feb 13.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Interested in traveling with members of your faith family? The OWLS (WELS Seniors) is partnering with Father's World Tours to offer several group tours that incorporate daily devotion and connections with local WELS ministries. We have three trips ready to register and we'd love to have you along. Spring Training in Arizona...February 20-27. Horsin' Around in Kentucky...April 17-26 from New Ulm or April 18-25 from Milwaukee. Adventures in Alaska...July 20-August 4. Trips are open to W/ELS members of all ages. Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact us (steve@fathersworldtours.com or 507-217-1731) to learn more.

MLC Students Love Auxiliary BINGO Night! ~ BINGO Night is Tuesday, February 10, and we're all excited to make it the best one yet. To do that, we need your help. Please consider donating a quilt or blanket, baked goods, gift cards, or a monetary gift. Drop off items by February 6. (Drop off baked goods on February 9 to assure freshness!) If writing a check, put 'Auxiliary BINGO' in the memo line.

Also feel free to mail your donation:

Martin Luther College

1995 Luther Court

New Ulm, MN 56073

To donate a cash gift online, visit mlc-wels.edu. Click on "Support MLC" and then "MLC Auxiliary."

WELS Group Outing to Les Mis 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>.

About the Cover ~ In 2008, I, Pastor Guenther, was blessed to take a trip to the Holy Land. I took this picture on the Sea of Galilee of fishermen about to head out for an evening of fishing. Their hope was, as all fishermen hope, to get a big catch of fish that they could take to market the next morning. By God's grace we have been "caught" by him. The Holy Spirit has used the Means of Grace as the net that created faith in our hearts and brought us into his Kingdom. Now, he gives us the privilege of fishing for him as we fish for other people to come to know of his love and grace. God help us in that endeavor!