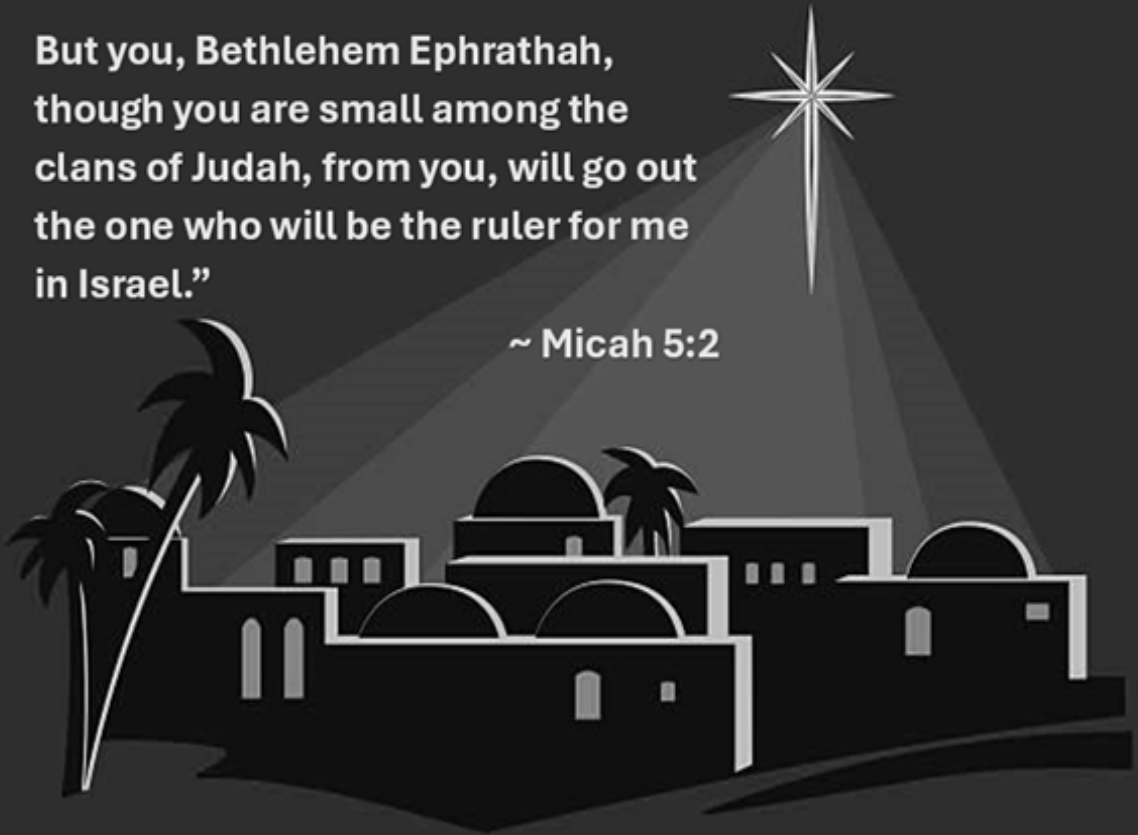


St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota

**But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the
clans of Judah, from you, will go out
the one who will be the ruler for me
in Israel."**

~ Micah 5:2



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21/22, 2024

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee

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YouTube

Pastor Rob Guenther

pastorguenther@gmail.com

507-240-2433

Today's service is televised locally

¹
Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21/22, 2024

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ~ God we praise and thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. We thank you that he came from Bethlehem to fulfill prophecy. We thank you that he has (or will) fulfill every prophecy that you made about him through your prophets, so we know without a doubt that he is the Messiah. We thank you that you have shown us that he is God, from of ancient times (from eternity), and capable of paying for our sins. Thank you for the God-man who has secured our salvation. Help us to share the news of your grace with others. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE **Service Setting 3** p.188

OPENING HYMN *Arise, O Chrisitan People* CW 310
Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS p.189

LORD HAVE MERCY p.190

GLORY TO GOD p.191

PRAYER OF THE DAY p.193

Be seated

FIRST READING Micah 5:2–5a

24“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY *Lord, in Your Mercy*
Hear My Prayer

Psalm 85

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

⁷Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’ ”

⁸First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—
though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹Then he said,
“Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to
establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy
through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain

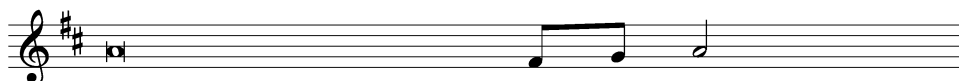


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Tone



The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,



and they will call him Im - man - u - el.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–55

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* CW327

SERMON **“From Where?!”**

I. From Bethlehem

II. From God

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

p.198

OFFERING

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333

PRAYER AND BLESSING

p.171

CLOSING HYMN

Oh Bless the Lord, My Soul

CW 623

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGAN

Becky Berg

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 am Worship 11 am Sunday School Christmas Service
Monday	8 am St. Paul's School Practice
Tuesday	4 pm St. Paul's Christmas Eve Children's Service 7 pm Candlelight Service
Wednesday	9 am Christmas Day Service
Thursday	8 am Office Closed
Friday	8 am Office Closed
Saturday	6:30 pm Worship
Sunday, Dec. 29	8, 9:30, 11 am Worship 9:30 am No Bible Class
Tuesday, Dec. 31	4 pm Oak Hills Service 6:30 pm New Year's Eve Service
Wednesday, Jan. 1	8 am Office Closed
Thursday, Jan. 2	10 am No Bible Class 7 pm No Bible Class
Friday, Jan. 3	10 am No Bible Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 561 with 412 receiving the Lord's Supper

Fruits of Faith:

\$18,704 Home Operations ~ Year to Date needed: \$881,306 / Year to Date received: \$854,128

\$1,504 WELS Missions ~ Received to Date: \$83,885 (2024 Goal: \$78,000)

\$497 MVL ~ Received to Date: \$55,192 (2024 Goal: \$52,000)

\$289 Altar and Flowers

\$287 Food and Fellowship

\$25 K-12 Education Assistance

\$300 Ministerial Education Endowment Fund

\$385 Building Fund

\$10 Sanctuary Renovation

\$60 St. Paul's School

\$60 Martin Luther College

\$110 Miscellaneous Income

\$980 Gifts for Called Workers/Staff

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul's Preschool Open House ~ Mon. Jan. 20, 2025 – 3PM – 6PM. New preschoolers, please come and visit! This includes SPP children moving to a new SPP classroom! 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 (NU & SE) & St. Paul's members and our school families are invited to have first choice of preschool sessions through Jan 20th. (Community "Open Registration" begins Jan. 21.) If you have

questions, please contact our preschool director, Mrs. Heidi Meyer: preschool@splnewulm.org

Pastor Kuehl Installation ~ Members of the MVLHS Association are invited to attend the installation of Rev. Stephen Kuehl. Rev. Kuehl will be installed as a teacher at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School on Monday, January 6, as part of an MVL chapel devotion, beginning at 2:26 p.m. Association pastors who would like to participate in the laying on of hands should contact Rev. Jon Ladner (jladner@mvlhs.org) for more information. The service will be completed by 3:00 and light refreshments will follow.

Amazing Race ~ The 2025 Amazing Race is right around the corner! This FUN raising event will benefit the School Building Project and is always one of the must-attend events of the year. It will take place on Sunday, February 2, with lunch for all starting at 11:30 and race time at 1pm. There will be events at school for everyone, even those who don't wish to race. If you would like to race, get your teams together and prepare for a trip around town that you won't soon forget! You can register your team of 4-7 people here: <https://bit.ly/amazingrace2025>. Cost is \$15 per racer. Team registration is due Friday, January 17, with a deadline of January 10 to order your Amazing Race short sleeve t-shirt at <https://bit.ly/amazingracets25> (see attached t-shirt graphic). We are already looking forward to the big day!