

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



And Jesus said to them,  
**"Follow me,**  
and I will make you  
fishers of men."

Mark 1:17

*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*  
January 20/21, 2024

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**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

## ***Third Sunday after the Epiphany***

**January 20/21, 2024**

**Prayer before worship:** Dear Jesus, forgive us for the times that we've failed to heed your call to follow you. Forgive us for the times that we've lived only for ourselves. Thank you for coming to rescue us, to pay for our sin, and to win a place for us in heaven. Now, moved by gratitude for all that you've done for us, help us to heed your call to follow you. Help us to do all that we can to help others to know your love and grace too.

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting One* page 154

**HANDBELLS** - 8 & 9:30 am

***Beautiful Savior***

Matthew Compton

**ANTHEM** - 11 am     ***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light***   Thomerson / Brusick

*I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus. In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father. In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus. In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I want to walk as a child of the light.*

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**OPENING HYMN**

***Take My Life and Let It Be***

**CW 695**

**CONFESSION**

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## FIRST LESSON

**Jonah 3:1–5,10**

<sup>1</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup>“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

<sup>3</sup>Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” <sup>5</sup>The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM of the DAY

***Psalm 62***

*Lectern side sings first half of each verse / Pulpit side sings second half of each verse*

## SECOND LESSON

**2 Corinthians 5:14–21**

<sup>14</sup>For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup>So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## **GOSPEL**

**Mark 1:14–20**

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup>When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup>Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **HYMN of the DAY**

*I Hear the Savior Calling*

**CW743**

## **SERMON**

**Mark 1:14-20**

### **Called to Go Fish**

I. Jesus’ Call Overcomes Our Fears

II. Jesus’ Call Overcomes Our Inadequacies

## **NICENE CREED**

p. 162

## **STAFF MINISTER INTERN INSTALLATION**

11 am

## **PRAYER of the CHURCH**

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## **OFFERING / COMMUNION**

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

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

**CW557**

## **PRAYERS and BLESSING**

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† † †

## **PREACHER**

Pastor Rob Guenther

## **ORGAN**

Adrian Smith

## **HANDBELLS**

Becky Berg

## **CHILDREN’S CHOIR (Gr. 1-4)**

Kirstie Klug

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

|     |                 |                                            |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Sun | 8, 9:30 & 11 am | Worship                                    |
|     | 11 am           | Staff Minister Intern Installation         |
| Tue | 4 pm            | Oak Hills Living Center Service            |
|     | 6:30 pm         | Slide Advance Training Session             |
|     | 7 pm            | Annual Voters' Meeting                     |
| Wed | 10 am           | Catechism                                  |
|     | 6 pm            | Handbells                                  |
|     | 7 pm            | Choir                                      |
| Thu | 10:30 am        | Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus  |
|     | 7 pm            | Bible Class: The Hard Sayings of Jesus     |
| Fri | 7 am            | Early Bird Bible Class                     |
|     | 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) |
| Sat | 6:30 pm         | Worship                                    |

### **† Upcoming Services †**

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

|        |                 |                                                 |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 28 | 8, 9:30 & 11 am | Worship                                         |
|        | 8 am            | Jr. Choir sings                                 |
|        | 9:30 am         | Sunday School and Bible Class: Book of 1st John |
| Jan 31 | 10 am           | Catechism                                       |
|        | 6 pm            | Handbells                                       |
|        | 7 pm            | Choir                                           |
| Feb 1  | 10:30 am        | Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus       |
|        | 7 pm            | Bible Class: The Hard Sayings of Jesus          |
| Feb 2  | 7 am            | Early Bird Bible Class                          |
|        | 9:30 am         | Women's Bible Class: Book of Esther             |
| Feb 3  | 6:30 pm         | Worship                                         |
| Feb 4  | 8, 9:30 & 11 am | Worship                                         |
|        | 9:30 am         | Sunday School and Bible Class: Book of 1st John |
|        |                 | Amazing Race at St. Paul's School               |
|        | 2 pm            | MVL Delegate Meeting                            |
| Feb 5  | 6:30 pm         | Elders Meeting                                  |
| Feb 6  | 4 pm            | Oak Hills Living Center Service                 |
|        | 7 pm            | Women of St. John's Meeting                     |
| Feb 7  | 10 am           | Catechism                                       |
|        | 6 pm            | Handbells                                       |
|        | 7 pm            | Choir                                           |

*Go to [www.stjohnsnewulm.com/calendar](http://www.stjohnsnewulm.com/calendar) for more events*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Attendance** for the past weekend was 383.

Fruits of faith given:

|          |                                                                                |                                       |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| \$16,371 | Home Operations ~ <i>Needed to Date: \$35,252 / Received to Date: \$27,886</i> |                                       |
| \$924    | MVL                                                                            | \$160 St. Paul's School               |
| \$2,224  | Missions                                                                       | \$150 St. Paul's School Building Fund |
| \$459    | Building Fund                                                                  | \$150 K-12 Education Assistance       |
| \$35     | 75th Ann. Sanctuary Renovation                                                 | \$100 Benevolence Fund                |
| \$50     | Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund                                           | \$60 Martin Luther College            |

**Annual Voters' Meeting** ~ will be Tuesday, January 23 at 7 pm. During the meeting voters will consider a) ratifying revisions to the St. John's constitution and b) passing a proposal for renovations to the sanctuary.

**Staff Minister Intern, Ben Haferman** ~ will be installed in the 11 am service today. He will be working at St. John's this semester under Pastor Guenther's supervision, first observing, then occasionally teaching and leading devotions. This internship is part of his training at Martin Luther College. Pray for Ben and his family! And give thanks to God for the young men and women who are studying to enter full time Called worker ministry!

**Volunteers Needed** ~ Now that we have screens in the sanctuary, we need volunteers to advance the slides during services. Use the link <http://bit.ly/SJSlideAdvance> to sign up for a service or two, or more. You can also scan the QR Code in the narthex. There will be a training session on Tuesday, January 23, from 6:30 - 7 pm, if you want to see what is involved.

**NEW Bible Class will be Offered** ~ beginning this Friday, January 26 at 7 am.

The *Early Bird Bible Class* will include breakfast and the Word. Please Scan the QR code or go to [bit.ly/SJEBBC](http://bit.ly/SJEBBC) to sign up. We would like to have enough food for all! There will be a freewill offering to help offset the cost of food.



**Join the Handbell Choir** ~ for a fun and unique fellowship opportunity. We are looking for 1-2 bell ringers. You don't need to be able to read music. The notes are color-coded for all levels of experience. **Any interested MLC bell ringers can play and earn IFE hours (category A).** Hurry before the spots are filled. Come join the fun. For more information, contact Becky Berg at [rberg@mvlhs.org](mailto:rberg@mvlhs.org) or text 989-280-7674.

**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.

**St. John's MVL Night** ~ Complimentary tickets for the boys basketball games at MVL beginning at 6 and 7:30 pm on Friday, January 26th at MVL can be found in the narthex. Come cheer on your MVL Chargers!

**Last Weekend to Submit Pictures and Update Information for Pictorial Directory 2024 ~** Members, please submit a picture to [sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com](mailto:sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com) or have me take your picture before or after services this Sunday. You could also change it on your phone or computer by logging into your [www.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com) (or in the app) account and editing the picture yourself. Pew Copies will be updated soon. New Directories will be available upon request once the information and pictures have been updated.

**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 date will be Saturday, 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.

**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**

**MLC Faculty Voice Recital ~** You're invited to a faculty voice recital given by Jonathan Laabs and Kathryn Wurster at Martin Luther College on Saturday, January 27, in the Chapel of the Christ beginning at 7:30 pm. You'll hear songs never before performed on the MLC campus: songs with poetry by Shakespeare, a set of French love songs, a bolero, and an aria from the opera Roméo et Juliette. After hearing a mysterious German composer and a collection of modern and classic musical theater, you'll walk away with a smile on your face, humming a tune. The recital is free and open to the public.

**Help Us Support MLC Students ~** The MLC Ladies' Auxiliary is sponsoring their annual Bingo Night on Wednesday, Feb. 7. This is one of the year's highlights for MLC students when they can have a night of fun and win great prizes of quilts, gift cards, and baked treats! We've had many generous donations of quilts for the event, but we are still looking for donations of treats and cash to purchase the gift cards. Please consider this opportunity to partner with the Auxiliary for this night of fun encouragement! Drop off donations at the MLC reception desk by February 1 or mail them to 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm, MN 56073. On behalf of our future pastors, staff ministers, and teachers, thank you!

***Lead the Next Generation*** - Men of Truth invites you to a one-day men's conference, *Lead the Next Generation*. Pastors Jeremy Mattek and Dan Schmidt will take us through three sessions focused on leading the next generation. Join us to explore a life in service to Christ, identifying youth service gifts and understanding and engaging our youth. Join us on Saturday, March 16 at Martin Luther College. Visit [www.MenofTruth.org](http://www.MenofTruth.org) for more information.

# VOTERS' MEETING

Tuesday, January 23  
at 7 pm

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

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**About the Cover** ~ Jesus called ordinary men to an extraordinary task: to share the message of his love and grace with the world! It wasn't because they were so righteous. It wasn't because they were so gifted. It wasn't because they were so brave. It was all by his grace that he called them by the gospel to share the gospel. And he equipped them for the task with all they would need. The same is true of us. God didn't choose us to be his own because of our good behavior, amazing abilities, or courage, but by his grace alone. And he gives us what we need to carry out the task of sharing the message of his grace as we live for him in thanks for all he's done for us.

**Welcome, Visitors!**

Please scan the QR code to  
sign our Guest Register.

