

# St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota

"LOOK, THE  
LAMB OF GOD,  
WHO TAKES  
AWAY THE SIN  
OF THE  
WORLD!

JOHN 1:29



***Second Sunday After Epiphany***  
**January 17/18, 2026**

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**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

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**January 17/18, 2026**

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



**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Heavenly Father, though we all, like sheep have gone astray and rightly deserve your punishment, in your grace you sent Jesus to become the sacrificial Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world -- who takes away my sin. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Help me to live for you in thanks. Amen.

<b>ORDER OF SERVICE</b>	<i>Service Setting 1</i>	pg. 154
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<b>OPENING HYMN</b>	<i>Arise and Shine in Splendor</i>	CW 375
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*Stand*

<b>CONFESSION OF SINS</b>	pg. 154
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<b>LORD HAVE MERCY</b>	pg. 156
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<b>GLORY TO GOD</b>	pg. 157
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<b>PRAYER OF THE DAY</b>	pg. 160
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*Be seated*

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 49:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." <sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength—<sup>6</sup> he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

*I Waited, Waited for the LORD*

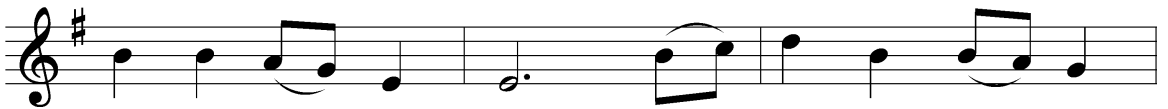
Psalm 40B



1 I wait - ed, wait - ed for the LORD; he turned and  
 2 Thus man - y souls will fear the LORD and look to  
 4 I tell your gath - ered peo - ple, LORD, what mer - cy  
 5 Your con - stant care, your stead - fast love I ev - er



heard my plea. And from the pit, the mire, and clay, he  
 him for aid. How blessed are all who trust in him, not  
 you be - stow, nor do I ev - er seal my lips, as  
 will re - veal, and from the great as - sem - bly, LORD, your



fi - n'ly lift - ed me. High on a cliff he  
 gods their hands have made. So man - y won - ders,  
 you, my LORD, well know. I do not hide with -  
 truth will not con - ceal. Do not with - hold your



set my feet, gave me a base to stand, a new song  
 LORD my God, and mar - vels you have done! What lov - ing  
 in my heart your ho - ly right - eous - ness, but speak a -  
 mer - cy, LORD, for I can hard - ly see; so man - y



put up - on my lips to make his prais - es grand.  
 plans you made for us! Who can com - pare? Not one.  
 loud your sav - ing help, your per - fect faith - ful - ness.  
 sins op - press my soul— my heart is fail - ing me.

## SECOND LESSON

Colossians 2:6-15

<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

<sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 John 2:2



### *Refrain*



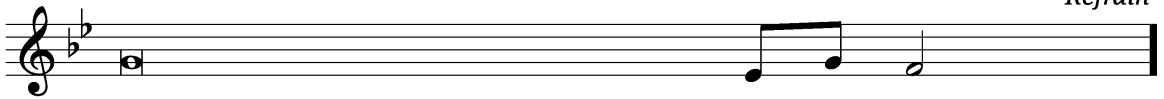
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### *Tone*



Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,

### *Refrain*



and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

## GOSPEL

John 1:29-41

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

<sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup> And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

<sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

<sup>39</sup> “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

<sup>40</sup> Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup> The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

***Be seated***

**SERMON**                      Look, the Lamb of God!                      John 1:29-41

***Stand***

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 11am

*Be seated*

7

## OFFERING

### THE SACRAMENT

pg. 165

*Stand*

### LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 165

*Be seated*

### DISTRIBUTION HYMN *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* CW 370

*Stand*

## PRAYER AND BLESSING

pg. 171

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGANIST

Adrian Smith

#### Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class – 2 Thessalonians
	9:30 am	Sunday School
Tuesday	4 pm	Oak Hills
	7 pm	Council 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
Friday	10 am	Worship @ Sunset Apt.
Saturday	9 am	Protect His House
	2:30 pm	Winter Carnival @ St. Paul's School

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

Sunday, Jan. 25 <sup>th</sup>	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 pm	Bible Class – 2 Thessalonians
	9:30 pm	Sunday School
	11 am	Jim Drestke Retirement Celebration
	12 pm	Reception for Jim Dretske
Monday, Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Worship Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10 am	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Bible Class – The Life of David
Saturday, Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 pm	Worship

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Attendance last weekend was 428.

### **Fruits of Faith:**

\$10,607 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$34,459 / YTD: \$20,521  
\$1,211 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$2,086 (2026 Goal: \$100,425)  
\$523 MVL ~ YTD: \$1,943 (2026 Goal: \$62,000)  
\$132 Building Fund  
\$130 K-12 Education Assistance  
\$130 St. Paul's School Building Fund  
\$110 Food + Fellowship  
\$77 Women of St. John's  
\$100 Christian Aid and Relief  
\$120 Wish List

**2025 Donor Offering Statements** ~ were printed this past week. To save on printing and postage costs, the majority of statements were sent by email. If your statement did not reach you or if you would like a printed copy, please contact our bookkeeper at 507-217-7671. If your statement does not appear in the email inbox, please check your spam folder.

**Jim Drestke's Celebration of Ministry** ~ Jim Drestke was born in Waukegan, Illinois. After graduation at DMLC (MLC) in 1989, he began his ministry at Trinity Lutheran in Hoskins, Nebraska, in 1990. He then taught at St. Paul's in Saginaw, MI from 1995-1998. He accepted a call in 1998 from St. John's Lutheran Church



in New Ulm as the Administrative Teacher for St. John's Church at St. Paul's School and has served as Staff Minister at St. John's since 2019. We will have a celebration of ministry service on January 25th at 11am. An open house reception with nacho bar will follow from 12pm to 2pm. Please join us as we rejoice in God's gift to the Church through Jim's 36-year ministry!



**Active Threat Training Available** ~ St. John's is hosting active threat training provided by Protect His House. This training is being offered at no cost to all interested St John's and St. Paul's members. Training will cover situational awareness, action planning, and tactics to respond to threatening situations. The class will be held at St. John's LC, Saturday, January 24th from 9am - 12pm. Registration is required. Use promo code SJLCFREE at registration. Use the QR code on the posters found around church, or go to <https://phhtraining.com/event/phh-level-1-active-threat-awareness-seminar-new-ulm-minnesota/> to register.

**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**

**St. Paul's Preschool Open House** ~ Mon. Jan 19, 2026 3 - 6pm New preschoolers, please come and visit! (& SPP children moving to a new SPP classroom!) St. Paul's Preschool offers full day & part-time sessions for 3, 4 & 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 pick of preschool sessions through Jan 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions, contact our preschool director, Mrs. Heidi Meyer: [preschool@splnewulm.org](mailto:preschool@splnewulm.org).

**Amazing Race** ~ The 2026 Amazing Race - the 10th running of the 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 1, 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 team 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://buytickets.at/amazingrace2026/1926609>. Cost is \$15 per racer. Team registration is due Friday, January 23, with a deadline of January 15 to order your Amazing Race short sleeve or long sleeve t-shirt and winter caps at <https://bit.ly/amazingracets26>.

**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** ~ Lambs may look cute and cuddly, but they're also smelly and kind of dumb. The law describes us as (dumb) sheep who wander away from our God, the Good Shepherd. So it might seem odd that John the Baptist calls Jesus a lamb. But he's not insulting our Savior. He's describing Jesus as the sacrificial lamb who gave his life to remove our sin and make us right with God. "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)