

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota

Second Sunday in Advent

December 3/4, 2022

THERE SHALL COME FORTH

A SHOOT

AND A BRANCH FROM HIS ROOTS

FROM THE STUMP OF JESSE,

SHALL BEAR FRUIT.

ISAIAH 11:1



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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

Prayer before worship: God, we know that for our sinful rebellion we deserve to have you cut all of your blessings out of our lives. In fact, we admit that we deserve to be cut down ourselves like a lumberjack felling a tree. But in your grace, you sent your Son, Jesus, the Branch that came from the stump of Jesse's fallen family tree. He was cut down in our place as he hung on a tree. Now through his work, we have peace with you and will have an eternal peace in heaven. Help us to live for you in thanks for the work of our Righteous Branch. Amen.

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Two* page 172

OPENING HYMN *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* CW316

CONFESSION p. 172

ANTHEM - 9:30 & 11 am *Prepare the Royal Highway* see insert

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— ³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ⁹They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY *Psalm 130B* see insert

SECOND LESSON

Romans 15:4-13

⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name."

¹⁰Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him."

¹²And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 179

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Come to us, Emmanuel; come and set your people free.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

⁴John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

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

HYMN of the DAY *Behold, a Branch Is Growing* **CW360**

SERMON **Isaiah 11:1-10**

Be Surprised by the Branch!
I. Be Surprised by How He Accomplished His Mission
II. Be Surprised by What His Mission Accomplished

NICENE CREED p. 180

OFFERING / COMMUNION

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

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* **CW663**

PRAYERS (*Contemporary*) **and BLESSING** p. 187

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PREACHER	Pastor Rob Guenther
PRESIDING MINISTER	Pastor Jeff Bovee
ORGAN	Jon Roux
SENIOR CHOIR	Bethel Boeder



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Approaching Gender Identity and Sexuality With a Listening Heart
	4 pm	MLC Christmas Concert
Mon	11 am	Stewardship Meeting
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Tue	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Wed	11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Services
	4:45 - 6:15 pm	Fellowship Supper
	6 pm	Public Catechism
	7:30 pm	Choir
Thu	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: Prayers of the Bible
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: Minor Prophets
Fri	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>
Sat	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

Midweek Advent:
Wednesday: 11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 11	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Approaching Gender Identity and Sexuality With a Listening Heart
Dec 12	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Dec 13	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6 pm	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
Dec 14	11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Services
	4:45 - 6:15 pm	Fellowship Supper
	6 pm	Public Catechism
	7:30 pm	Choir
Dec 15	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: Prayers of the Bible
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: Minor Prophets
Dec 16	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>
Dec 17	9 am	Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal
Dec 18	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	11 am	Sunday School Christmas Service

Go to www.stjohnsnewulm.com/calendar for more events

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 386.

Fruits of faith given for the past two weeks:

\$34,147	Home Operations ~ \$54,691 is our weekly need		
\$2,018	MVL ~ \$3,156 is our weekly need	\$400	Christian Aid & Relief
\$2,945	Missions ~ \$3,920 is our weekly need	\$185	Memorials
\$1,439	Building Fund	\$100	Benevolence Fund
\$1,195	Kitchen Fund	\$100	Endowment Fund

Can You Help Decorate ~ the church on Saturday, December 10th beginning at 9 am. Anyone who would like to help is welcome!

Amazon Charity Option ~ Go to: <https://amzn.to/3n1T32V> to support St. John's through your personal Amazon purchases.

Kitchen Project ~ During the October meeting, the St. John's voters approved up to \$100,000 for updating the current kitchen. The kitchen fund currently has \$38,000, allowing our congregation to see what type of appeal St. John's can handle. A foundational principle of this project is that updates, like appliances, can also be used in future expansion efforts. Work has begun with the contractor and tradespeople on the timetable for the project. Concept drawings and pictures can be viewed electronically at bit.ly/SJkitchen2023. Gifts for this project are currently being received by writing "Kitchen Project" on offering envelopes or check memo lines.

Sunday Bible Class ~ *Approaching Gender Identity and Sexuality with a Listening Heart* - Issues surrounding gender identity and sexuality have dominated news cycles in 2022. Who has the responsibility to teach children about sexuality and answer their questions about how they view themselves? Join us for this Sunday morning Bible class series as we explore Christian sexuality and the two kingdoms of gender identity.

Women of St. John's ~ Join the women of St. John's for the annual Christmas party at 7 pm on Tuesday, December 6. In place of a gift exchange, please bring a gift to help support the Martin Luther College Food Bank for married students. Ideas include gift cards for Walmart, Cashwise, HyVee, Kwik Trip or other local stores. Snacks will be provided. Come and enjoy some holiday fun and fellowship!

Burp Cloths Needed for ECLC ~ The MLC Early Childhood Learning Center needs new burp cloths for the infant rooms. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are interested in sewing some for the classes. Please indicate if you need fabric or if you have spare fabric.

Volunteer Opportunity ~ Thank you to all the St. John's member volunteers who offered their time and talent this past year to help out at the NU Emergency Food Shelf for 2022. We have another opportunity to volunteer at the Food Shelf, 1305 S. Valley St., on the 3rd Monday of each month from 11:45 am - 3 pm. Two to three volunteers are needed for the dates referenced below. High school and college students are welcome to volunteer.

March 20	June 19	September 18	December 18
April 17	July 17	October 16	
May 15	August 21	November 20	

Church Directory ~ Many of the pictures that were in the 2022 Edition are fine to use in the 2023 Directory. However, there are some families whose children have grown or even increased in number. Members who are not yet pictured received an email and a note in their church mailboxes requesting pictures. I hope you will consider adding your picture to the directory. Members can submit an updated picture via email to sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com or look for me before or after services to take your picture. If anyone has a changed address, phone number, or have children now in college or military, please fill out and update information on sheets available in the new narthex and drop it off in the office. Thank you! Jim Dretske, Staff Minister

Offering Announcement ~ Visitors, there is no obligation or expectation that you should give to support our ministry at St. John's. This is our members' way of expressing their thanks to God and supporting the work that we do to share the Gospel in New Ulm and around the world. Members, you are invited to give your gifts of gratitude and thanks to God for all he's done for you in Christ by leaving your offerings in the drop box in the narthex. Or you can bring your offerings to the church during regular office hours: Mondays through Fridays, 8 am - 1 pm. You might also consider taking advantage of your bank's online bill pay service and have your offering automatically sent to the church on a one time or recurring basis.

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

WELS Travel Tour or Theatre Tickets through MLC ~ The MLC alumni office invites all W/ELS members to join a group attending the Dec. 10 matinee of Les Miserables at the Orpheum Theatre in Minneapolis. Tickets are just \$35. You are also welcome to join a March 1-12 travel tour which plans to visit Southern CA, Grand Canyon West, the Mighty Five Utah national parks, and the Colorado Rockies. For more information or to register, visit bit.ly/lesmis22 (theatre) or bit.ly/la2nu (tour) or contact coordinator Steve Balza (alumni@mlc-wels.edu or 507-217-1731).

Men's Dartball ~ The WELS DARTBALL LEAGUE, dormant the past 2 ½ years because of the pandemic, is starting up on Monday evening December 12, at 7 pm in the lower level dartball room at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm. Any male player in eighth grade or older is eligible to play. This is a great opportunity for new players from St. John's to get involved in fun, fellowship, and camaraderie. Interested players should contact Myron Fluegge by phone: 507-359-2424 or email: flueggemtj@hotmail.com by Wednesday, December 7.

MLC Concert ~ Martin Luther College invites you to the annual Christmas concert, *Dawn of Redeeming Grace*, presented on Sunday, December 4, at 4 pm in the MLC Chapel of the Christ. All are welcome as we open the Advent season with this joyous campus tradition!

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) will meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm on December 12. Fellowship begins at 11:30 am, with a catered ham dinner being served at noon, the cost being covered by Thrivent Action Team moneys. The Christmas party will include the singing of Christmas carols and several games. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Myron Fluegge via phone (507-359-2424) or email: flueggemtj@hotmail.com by Monday, December 5 to get a count for the meal.

St. Paul's School Band Concert ~ All are invited to the St. Paul School Band Concert on Thursday, December 15, at 7 pm in the gymnasium. The Raider Band and the Junior Band will perform along with some smaller ensembles. Come and join us!

Coaches Needed ~ MVL is currently looking for three head coaches: dance team, baseball, and softball. If you are interested please send a resume to Craig Morgan at cmorgan@mvlhs.org or call 507-276-7576 with any questions.

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 ~ How surprising! A shoot coming up from a stump! A branch growing out of a root! How surprising the way our Savior works. We might expect him to come and destroy us for our sinful rebellion and cut us down like a dead tree! But instead, he comes to rescue us! He was cut down on a tree (on a cross) in our place. So now we have peace with God. Now let's work toward peace with one another as we live for him in thanks!