



## January 2026

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This is an area where God likes to show off. A lot. It's that time of the year when psychics make their predictions for the future. But, given their accuracy rate, should they be trusted?

Fine, once in a while a bit of common sense, knowledge of current events, and good guessing means they hit their target (or at least get close and just claim credit anyway). But they're wrong more than they're right.

Here are a few examples:

### **"Cars will stop being popular."**

In 1903, the president of Michigan Savings Bank warned Henry Ford's lawyer, Horace Rackham, to protect his money. "The horse is here to stay, but the automobile is only a novelty, a fad," he advised. If you've ever been stuck trying to get out of a parking lot after a sporting event, you may have wished he'd gotten this one right.

### **"Recorded music will destroy all musical ability."**

In 1906, composer John Philip Sousa warned the world about "The Menace of Mechanical Music" in an article attacking machines that brought symphonies into people's homes. He bemoaned the fact that fewer and fewer cheap lutes were being purchased, "all because the automatic music devices are usurping their places." Sorry, Spotify.

### **"Electricity will flicker out of fashion."**

So said Junius Morgan to his son J.P. Morgan. J.P. had hired Thomas Edison to wire up his mansion, making it the first private residence in New York to have electric lighting. Luckily for his bank account, J.P. Morgan didn't listen to his dad and invested heavily in Edison, eventually financing General Electric.

If these self-proclaimed experts are so wrong about predicting the future, where does that leave common, ungifted folk like you and me? Must we guess with even less skill than theirs? Can we even hope for anything?

There's good news here. This is an area where God likes to show off. A lot.

God's track record with predictions boasts a 100% accuracy rate. Just page through the New Testament and note how many times God's Word refers back to a prophecy in the Old Testament and says, in polite terms, "I told you it would happen." Like the virgin birth of Christ or his resurrection, to name a couple biggies.

So, consider it safe to turn to God's predictions and trust in them for your life, your well-being, and your happiness in 2025. Here are five you might appreciate:

**"Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go"** (Joshua 1:9). There isn't a place or a problem in your life that will hide from God's influence. So keep him involved.

**"Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me"** (Psalm 50:15). Stay tuned into God's solutions to your dilemmas. They will not always be what you expect... but even better.

**"Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with**

**toil and chasing after the wind”** (Ecclesiastes 4:6). Prioritize contentment over consumption and you’ll discover a better you.

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled,”** Jesus promises in his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:6). When your striving and ambition are aimed at a right (eous) relationship with God, you will find meaning and satisfaction. Imbalance here will create emptiness and a daily grind that goes nowhere fast. Put God first. Period.

**“Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Romans 8:38,39). God’s love for you is stronger than death, stronger than your worries about the future, stronger than anything. Tap into his love. Believe it when it seems impossible. He will not stop loving you, forgiving you, and leading you.

Find your security in the God whose past performance does promise future gain, and whose promises always find their fulfillment in you – even when you can’t earn them or don’t notice them.

And enjoy your car, your music, and your electricity.

God’s blessings to you and yours in the new year!

In Christ,  
Pastor Guenther

## January Sermon Texts

December 7	Isaiah 11:1-10	From the Branch Will Come the Harvest
December 14	Isaiah 35	Footprints in the Sand...
December 21	Isaiah 7:1-14	Immanuel Has Come
December 28	Matthew 2:13-23	Do Your Hear What I Hear?

**Bible Class** meets in the Church Basement  
The class can also be found online at [bit.ly/SJBibleClass](https://bit.ly/SJBibleClass)

Sundays at 9:30am	Nicene Creed	Professor Keith Wessel
Thursdays at 10am	A Simple Way to Pray	Pastor Jeff Bovee
Thursdays at 7pm	The Life of David	Pastor Rob Guenther

## Council Digest

No Council Digest.

### Active Threat Awareness Training

Attacks on religious centers in the US have increased in the past decade. These include acts of vandalism and deadly incidents with active shooters during worship services.

A culture of awareness can serve as a primary deterrent when attending worship services at St. John's, your place of employment, and while you are in public settings. Practicing simple steps can go along way in keeping worshippers safe at St. John's, as we work together.

St. John's is hosting a special threat awareness training that will teach attendees about how to prepare for, respond, and survive an active shooter event. This training would benefit ushers, greeters, Council and committee members, and interested members.

Active Threat Awareness Training

St. John's Lutheran Church

Saturday, January 24th

9am – 12pm

This training is being conducted by Protect His House, specialists in church security. All who would like to attend will need to register using the QR code to the right or on the posters found in the narthex. This training is also open to the community. The registration fee is \$29.99 per person. St. John's and St. Paul's members should use the code **SJLCFREE** when registering to attend for free. Contact Deacon Brad Price with questions or for more information

## Library News

Happy New Year to you. We wish you a great 2026!

This month we have two non-fiction books from Concordia Publishing and Northwestern Publishing. “The Messianic Message” by R. Reed Lessing, and Andrew E. Steinman is a study of the predictions, patterns, and the Presence of Jesus in the Old Testament. The authors feel that Jesus is really the Angel of the Lord who appears several times in the Old Testament. Also how many predictions about the coming Messiah in the O. T. are quoted in the New Testament by Jesus and others? These predictions are fulfilled by Jesus or about Him. Very enlightening!

“Day By Day” is a devotion book filled with studies of the Bible by Martin Luther, 500 years ago. Beth Weinstock edited the plethora of writings of Martin Luther than had been translated into English, to have 365 devotions for us. Luther spent his life explaining to believers and unbelievers about the truths in the Bible, about death, sin, the world, and the devil, as well as God’s help.

Serena Miller wrote “The Measure of Katie Calloway”. It is fiction that takes place after the Civil War but in the cold north of Northern Michigan. She leaves her abusive husband and escapes with her little brother to a logging camp. The owner of the camp needs a cook and her cooking draws more loggers to the camp which is a good thing. Katie and the boss get along, even when her abusive husband shows up. Now what? We learn a lot about how they survive the cold winter and still get a lot of logs cut, 150 years ago.

Judy LaGrow, one of our own, has written a novelization of the story of Ruth, and had it printed. She named it the “Kinsman Redeemer” and it can also be checked out of our library. She did well.

Happy reading in the new year. It is cozy to curl up with a book during the cold winter.

LeiLani Rahn

## Women of St. John's

**Thank You!** ~ Women of St John's would like to express our gratitude to everyone who generously donated toward the gift card collection for our non-traditional (second career) MLC students. We were able to give \$25 worth to each of these 19 students for Christmas.

**Women of St John's** ~ We will be meeting on Tuesday, January 6th at 7 p.m. in the church basement (weather permitting). There will be a business meeting that will include voting on our 2026 quarterly mission projects, followed by a game. If there is a particular mission project you would like to see added to the ballot, contact Sarah Logston ([logstonsarah@gmail.com](mailto:logstonsarah@gmail.com)). Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

## St. Paul's School

St. Paul's Preschool Open House - Mon. Jan. 19, 2026 – 3PM – 6PM

New preschoolers, please come and visit! (And 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 19th . (Community "Open Registration" begins Jan. 20.)

If you have questions, please contact our preschool director, Mrs. Heidi Meyer:

[preschool@splnewulm.org](mailto:preschool@splnewulm.org)

## Staff Minister

**ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**NEW ULM, MN 56073**

**JANUARY 2026**  
**354-6744**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  NEW YEARS DAY	2	3  WORSHIP 6:30 PM W/ COMMUNION
4 Christmas 2 WORSHIP 8, 9:30, & 11 AM W/ COMMUNION	5  6:30 pm Elders	6  7 pm Women Of St. John's	7  6:30 pm Public And Homeschool Catechism  7 pm Choir	8 10 am Bible Class  7 pm Bible Class	9  WORSHIP 6:30 PM
11 Epiphany 1 WORSHIP 8, 9:30, & 11 AM  9:30 am Bible Class	12  6 pm Evangelism Meeting 7 pm Education Meeting	13	14  6:30 pm Public And Homeschool Catechism	15 10 am Bible Class  7 pm Bible Class	16  WORSHIP 6:30 PM W/ COMMUNION
18 Epiphany 2 WORSHIP 8, 9:30, & 11AM W/ COMMUNION  9:30 am Bible Class	19	20  7 pm Council	21  6:30 pm Public And Homeschool Catechism  7 pm Choir	22 10 am Bible Class  7 pm Bible Class	23  WORSHIP 6:30 PM
25 Epiphany 3 WORSHIP 8, 9:30, & 11 AM  9:30 am Bible Class	26	27	28  6:30 pm Public And Homeschool Catechism  7 pm Choir	29 10 am Bible Class  7 pm Bible Class	30  WORSHIP 6:30 PM
31					

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 Pastor Rob Guenther  
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**T.V. Service:**

**Mondays: 6 pm**  
**Tuesdays: 1 pm**  
**Thursdays: 10 am**  
**on**  
**Comcast Channel 14**  
**Nuvera Channel 3**

## S.O.S. Support Our Schools

S.O.S. You've likely heard of it. You're probably aware that it is a distress signal. Before being labeled an acronym for "Save Our Ship", it was a morse code signal - very simple to send, receive, and understand. Three Dots (S). Three Dashes (O). Three Dots (S). That is why it was chosen as a universal call for help. Simplicity.

We understand that we need help. Danger, distress, and destruction surround us. Satan seeks to devour us - to separate us from our Savior and the salvation He won for us. "Deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight". Our children are not immune from Satan's attacks. He wants nothing more than to squash the faith the Spirit gave them at their baptism.

One way in which God comes to our aid (particularly that of our children), is through the blessing of Lutheran schools. Our forefathers understood this, and sacrificed to establish Lutheran schools such as St Paul's and MVL in our community.

*Our fathers knew and kept in view true wisdom's worth and pleasure; They prized as jewels their Christian schools and left a lasting treasure.*

Christian Worship 909 st. 2

January 25-31 has been declared Lutheran Schools Week. The annual event serves as a reminder for us to rededicate our commitment to Christian education. It calls for us to evaluate the impact our schools have on the lives of our youth. It urges us to appreciate our teachers and those who assist us in guarding and equipping young minds. It provides opportunities to celebrate the blessings He gives through our schools. It reminds us to perpetuate these schools to generations yet unborn through our regular prayers and generous offerings.

Let's consider some simple reasons to **Support Our Schools**. Really, it's all about the work of the Holy Spirit, the perfect teacher who is present daily in each classroom.

- As our teachers faithfully read and teach the scriptures, the Spirit works faith, emboldens confession, and empowers our children to live lives of obedient service.
- As our solidly trained teachers rightly apply the law, the Spirit uses it as a mirror to **Show Our Sin** and a curb to **Stave Off Satan**.
- As our faithful teachers rightly proclaim the gospel, the Spirit works to **Show Our Savior**, assure us of forgiveness, and remind us of the heavenly home He has prepared..

Training our youth to follow Jesus may be as simple as giving the Spirit the chance to work in their hearts, but it takes significant support and sacrifice to operate our schools. May God continue to bless our efforts to "declare to the next generation the praises of the LORD".

The QR codes to the right take you to sites where you can give gifts to support our schools.

<https://bit.ly/MVL26>

<https://bit.ly/SPLS26>

# Central Africa Medical Mission

Christians often think of the three P's of Christmas as The Plan, The Person, and The Purpose, drawn from Matthew 1:18–25. In those verses, Matthew explains God's plan for Jesus' birth, highlights Jesus Christ as the central person, and points ahead to God's purpose—eternal life through our Savior.

After visiting Zambia, Kenya, and Malawi and seeing the remarkable medical work happening in each country, I couldn't help but observe that the Central Africa Medical Mission has its own three P's—Patience, Peace, and Promise.

Patience is essential in our clinics. Patients often walk many kilometers just to wait in long lines to be seen. Staff may spend weeks or even months awaiting necessary medications or equipment. Short-term medical camps in Kenya are planned a year in advance, and CAMM patiently waits for every logistical detail to fall into place. In moments of frustration, we are reminded:

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer”. (Romans 12:12)

Peace is another gift that can be easily taken for granted in CAMM's work. Some areas we serve experience periods of civil unrest, and even in calmer times there can be a sense of uncertainty. Why do medication and fuel costs continue to rise? Why doesn't God grant physical healing to every patient? In these moments of anxious questioning, we look to the book of John. God offers peace that quiets our worries about our patients, clinics, and staff. In Him, we find calm.

Promise touches many aspects of CAMM's work. We can try to promise that all needed medications will be available on any given clinic day. We can try to promise safe travel for staff and volunteers. We can hope that every patient will hear and experience God's Word at our healthcare sites. These human promises are limited—but God's promises are not. He promises to be with us and with CAMM's mission. He promises to be with His people in every nation, to the very end of time.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid". (John 14:27)

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you and surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

There are many other “P's” we could reflect on as we consider CAMM's work in Zambia, Malawi, and Kenya. But may we always return to PRAYER—prayers that God grant us PATIENCE, fill us with PEACE, and remind us of His enduring PROMISE of everlasting life with Him.

Blessings God has bestowed on CAMM in 2025:

We held our second short-term medical camp in Kenya in partnership with One Africa Team, Christian Aid & Relief, the Board of World Missions, and the Lutheran Congregations in Missions for Christ–Kenya. Our staff and volunteers provided care to more than 1,000 patients.

Our third short-term medical camp is scheduled for February 2026 in Chabera, Kenya. What a blessing to see all the planning come together!

Thanks to generous support, we supplied the Lutheran Mobile Health Centre in Zambia with an ultrasound machine and a new solar system. As Zambia has recently faced days with only four hours of electricity, these solar panels will significantly ease the shortages.

God granted CAMM peace, allowing clinics to operate each day as planned, even amid rising fuel prices and fuel shortages in Zambia and Malawi.

In Malawi, we conducted a trial medical clinic with the full staff in Chatala, where nearly 100 patients were seen.

Dedicated and well-trained staff work diligently to ensure the clinics operate smoothly.

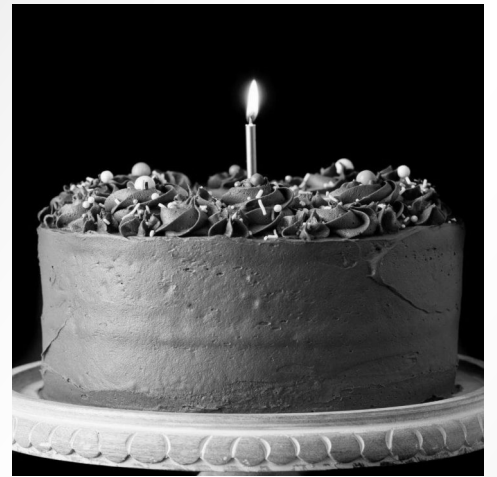
With Gary Evans planning to retire as Field Director in 2026, we have restructured the role into a combined Field Director/Executive Director position. Kate Wood has accepted the new position for the Central Africa Medical Mission and has begun training with Gary.

We are deeply grateful for the tremendous support from all of you who continue to propel CAMM's mission forward. From donations to LWMS rallies, presentations, and sending parcels—your contributions are truly a blessing.

May all of you be blessed this Christmas!

Angela Sievert  
CAMM Committee Chair

# *Happy Birthday!*



- |    |                   |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Mavis Davis       | 17 | Luke Dinse        |
|    | Aiden Weisensel   |    | Nadine Li         |
|    | Autumn Wiechmann  |    | Madelynn Wels     |
| 4  | Hannah Borgwardt  | 18 | Mary Caauwe       |
|    | Sharon More       | 20 | Margaret Brei     |
| 6  | Amanda Baker      |    | Luke Scheid       |
| 7  | Wayne Wels        | 22 | JoAnn Brandes     |
|    | Siri Zahrt        |    | Lillian Brandes   |
|    | Sandra Burdorf    |    | Becca Koelpin     |
| 9  | Layla Harris      | 24 | Peyton Toltzman   |
|    | Harper Kempenich  | 27 | Paul Koelpin      |
|    | Kim Peterson      |    | Kinsley Mielke    |
|    | Marie Raddatz     |    | Lucas Schmit      |
| 11 | Shawn Bjerke      | 28 | Nolan Hunter      |
|    | James Pope        |    | Adam Nilson       |
| 12 | Missy Martens     |    | Amber Toltzman    |
|    | Wendy Ristow      |    | Mark Weinkauf     |
|    | Ella Wurster      | 29 | Joel Guenther     |
| 13 | Caleb Filzen      | 30 | Jim Dretske       |
|    | Marion Slettedahl |    | James Schroeder   |
| 14 | Cathy Pope        |    | Jason Thom        |
|    | Adelaide Price    | 31 | Marlene Lambrecht |
|    | Scott Scheid      |    | Abbott Lang       |
| 15 | Molly Scheid      |    |                   |
| 16 | Paige Berg        |    |                   |
|    | Linda Cole        |    |                   |
|    | Susan Decker      |    |                   |
|    | Caleb Hunter      |    |                   |
|    | Wayne Laitinen    |    |                   |

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church  
627 South Washington  
New Ulm MN 56073

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January 2026

FORTRESS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church • New Ulm, Minnesota

*Welcome to St. John's!*

627 S. Washington St.

507-354-6744

[www.stjohnsnewulm.com](http://www.stjohnsnewulm.com)

### *Worship Times*

Saturdays: 6:30 pm

Sundays: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

and online at:

[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Search: Saint John's New Ulm

### *Adult Bible Class*

(In person and online at: [bit.ly/SJBibleClass](https://bit.ly/SJBibleClass))

Sundays: 9:30 am

Thursdays: 10 am & 7 pm

### *Sunday School*

Sundays: 9:30 am

### *Staff*

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee

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Pastor Rob Guenther

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