

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



But who can
endure the day
of his coming?
Who can stand
when he appears?
For he will be
like a refiner's
fire or a
launderer's soap.

Second Sunday in Advent
December 7/8, 2024

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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 IN ADVENT

December 7 / 8, 2024

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, we thank and praise you for sending Jesus to come as the Messenger of your covenant, to announce the good news of forgiveness for all of our sins, and to win that forgiveness for us. Now, help us to live for you in thanks as we become your messengers and share the good news of forgiveness with others. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE **Service Setting 1** p.154

OPENING HYMN *Prepare the Royal Highway* CW 302
9:30 & 11am- Choir will sing stanzas 1 & 3

Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS p.154

LORD HAVE MERCY p.156

GLORY TO GOD p.157

PRAYER OF THE DAY p.160

Be seated

ANTHEM *How Long, the Prophets Cried* arr. James E. Clemens
9:30 & 11am

*How long, the prophets cried,
how long before God puts an end to wrong,
Before Messiah sets us free from ev'ry yoke and tyranny?
How long, O Lord, how long?*

*Vengeance, they knew, belongs to God;
Who smites the wicked with his rod:
But some, inspired by gospel grace, saw mercy in Messiah's face.
How long, O Lord, how long?*

*And now, at last, in God's good time shall Mary come to Bethlehem,
In great humility to bear the Prince of Peace, as David's heir.
He came, our Savior came!*

*These Advent days, with loving care and childlike joy, let us prepare
Our waiting churches, hearts, and homes,
to make him welcome when he comes.
He comes, our Savior comes! He comes, our Savior comes!*

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1–7b

¹“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

⁶“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY *Let all the Earth Cry Out to the Lord* Psalm 66

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3–11

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMTION



GOSPEL

Luke 3:1–6

4

word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
⁵Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
⁶And all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”

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

Be seated

HYMN of the DAY *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry* CW 316

SERMON **God’s Advent Messengers...**

- I. Some Came to Prepare the Way
- II. One Came to Be the Way
- III. We Come to Share the Way

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.164

OFFERING

HYMN *Comfort, Comfort All My People* CW 312

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSINGS

p.171

CLOSING HYMN *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding* CW 318

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGAN

Jon Roux

SENIOR CHOIR

Adrain Smith

VIOLIN

Sebastian Smith

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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How Long, the Prophets Cried [#50-0016](#)

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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, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Biblical Conflict Resolution
Monday	11:30 am	OWLS
	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Tuesday	4 pm	Oak Hills Service
	6 pm	Sunday School Meeting
Wednesday	11 am	Midweek Service
	3:30 pm	Home School and Public Catechism
	4 pm	Midweek Service
	5 pm	Advent Meal
	5:30 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Midweek Service with MLC Women's Choir
	7:30 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
	7 pm	Bible Class: Proverbs
Friday	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Proverbs
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Dec. 15	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Biblical Conflict Resolution
Tuesday, Dec. 17	6:30 pm	Council Meal
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 18	11 am	Midweek Service
	3:30 pm	Homeschool and Public Catechism
	4, 6:30 pm	Midweek Service

5 pm Advent Meal
7:30 pm Choir
Thursday, Dec. 19 8 am St. Paul's School Practice
Friday, Dec. 20 8 am St. Paul's School Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 372 with 247 receiving the Lords Supper.

Fruits of Faith:

\$18,426 Home Operations ~ Year to Date needed: \$846,054 / Year to Date received: \$814,993

\$1,359 WELS Missions ~ Received to Date: \$81,347 (2024 Goal: \$78,000)

\$937 MVL ~ Received to Date: \$53,608 (2024 Goal: \$52,000)

\$10 Endowment Fund

\$30 Food and Fellowship

\$15 K-12 Education Assistance

\$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund

\$5 MLC Ladies Auxiliary

\$5 Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund

\$.25 Lutheran Charities

\$10 Christian Family Solutions

\$420 Building Fund

\$10 LWMS

\$100 Benevolence Fund

\$80 Sanctuary Renovation

Please Complete the Communications & Contribution Preference Survey ~ Your stewardship committee is trying to maximize the effectiveness of our communication by sharing information with our members in the way that they prefer to receive it. We also want to offer giving options that will be used



based on how our members give gifts to God. Please take 2 minutes to scan and complete the digital survey or pick up a printed copy in the narthex.

Bible Class ~ Difficult Conversations - When it comes to the realities of life in a sinful world, we all know a thing or two about hurting and being hurt by others. But the Christian has every advantage in the even more powerful realities of the grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation that we have in Jesus. It will be a joy to unpack these "advantages" with Bibles open and to explore some useful strategies for managing our interpersonal conflicts.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Shelf Volunteers ~ Check your church mailbox for a draft of the 2025 New Ulm FoodShelf schedule. If you have any questions, contact Carla Melendy (507-217-9750) or Deb Beatty (507-276-2722) by December 21. Thanks for your help!

MLC Job Opportunities ~ Martin Luther College is accepting applications for a part time Vocal Instructor. Interested individuals should apply online at mlcwels.edu/hr/. Thank you.

Oak Hills Volunteers for St. John's Services Needed ~ Every other week, volunteers from St. John's help to bring residents to a 4:00 Chapel Service on Tuesdays. After the services we take them back to their rooms. During the past year or so we have lost a couple of volunteers and are in need of more helpers. If you enjoy visiting with fellow Christians, are able to push a wheelchair, and have an hour and a half available every other Tuesday afternoon, we would love to have you join us. Email sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com or talk to me to get more details about serving the Lord in this way. Thanks, Staff Minister Jim

MLC Christmas Concert ~ Martin Luther College invites you to the annual Christmas concert, *And on Earth, Peace*, presented Sunday, December 8, at 4:00 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 be gathering on Monday, December 9, for a noon Christmas catered meal at St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm. The costs will be covered with Thrivent Action Team moneys. Fellowship begins at 11:30 AM, with Christmas Carols following the meal. If you plan to attend and have not signed up for the Baked Potato Bar with your choice of pulled pork or chili, do so by noon on December 3 by contacting Myron Fluegge at flueggemtj@hotmail.com or phone 507-359-2424. Christmas begins with Christ!

MVL Christmas Concert ~ The MVL Music Department invites you to its annual Sacred Christmas Concert on Friday, December 20, at 6:45 p.m. in the MVL Fine Arts Center. This year's program, themed *Be Near Me, Lord Jesus*, will celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons with performances by the A Cappella Choir, Freshmen Choir, MVL Chargaliers, and the Symphonic Band. A freewill offering will be collected.

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!

About the Cover ~ A messenger, a maid, a launderer... these aren't the most glamorous of jobs. But announced by other messengers like Malachi and John the Baptist, our Savior came in humility to be a messenger of God's grace, to clean our souls of sin, and to purify us from all unrighteousness. Now we're eager to live for him as we become messengers of his grace that will cleanse and purify others too.

