

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
January 31/ February 1, 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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 31/ February 1, 2026

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



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, we know that we deserve no blessing from you. But in your grace, you give us blessing after blessing. You even sent your Son, Jesus, to win for us the greatest blessings of forgiveness, peace with you, and heaven someday soon. Help us to be a blessing to others as we live for you in thanks. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Service Setting 3

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OPENING HYMN

Jesus and Shall it Ever Be

I Je - sus! and shall it ev - er be A mor - tal
2 A - shamed of Je - sus? Just as soon Let mid - night
3 A - shamed of Je - sus, that dear friend On whom my
4 A - shamed of Je - sus? Yes, I may When I've no

man a - shamed of thee? A - shamed of thee, whom an - gels
be a - shamed of noon. 'Tis mid - night with my soul till
hopes of heav'n de - pend? No; when I blush, be this my
guilt to wash a - way, No tear to wipe, no good to

praise, Whose glo - ries shine through end - less days?
he, Bright Morn - ing Star, bids dark - ness flee.
shame, That I no more re - vere his name,
crave, No fear to quell, no soul to save.

5. Till then – nor is my boasting vain –
Till then I boast a Savoir slain;
And oh,, may this my glory be:
That Christ is not ashamed of me.

Stand

CONFESSiON OF SINS

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LORD HAVE MERCY

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GLORY TO GOD

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

pg. 193

Be seated

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:11-13

³ Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD’s anger.

¹¹ On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill. ¹² But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD. ¹³ They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

How Truly Blest Are They

Psalm 1B



1 How tru - ly blest are they who shun the
 2 But make the law of God their stud - y
 3 They like a tree shall thrive with wa - ters
 4 The wick - ed are not so! They no such



sin - ners' ways, a - mong their coun - sels
 and de - light a - mid the la - bors
 near the root. Fresh as the leaf their
 bless - ing find. Their hopes shall flee like



nev - er stand, nor take the scorn - ers' place,
 of the day and watch - es of the night.
 name shall live; their works are heav'n - ly fruit.
 emp - ty chaff be - fore the driv - ing wind.

5 How will they bear to stand before that judgment seat
 where all the saints at Christ's right hand in full assembly meet?

6 God knows and he approves the way the righteous go,
 but sinners and their works shall meet a dreadful overthrow.

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has

become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5:3



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Tone



Blessed are the poor in spirit - it,



for theirs is the kingdom of heaven - en.

Refrain

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Blest Are They

CW 690

SERMON

“God Bless You!”

Matthew 5:1-12

- I. We Deserve No Blessing
- II. We’re Blessed by God’s Grace
- III. We’re a Blessing to Others

Stand

NICENE CREED

pg. 196

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT

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Stand

LORD'S PRAYER

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Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

CW 670

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSING

pg. 203

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

ORGANIST

Jon Roux

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11am 9:30 pm 9:30 pm	Worship Bible Class – 2 Thessalonians Sunday School
Monday	6 pm	Elders' Meeting
Tuesday	4 pm 7 pm	Oak Hills Service Women of St. John's
Wednesday	11:30 am 6 pm 6:30 pm 7 pm	Stewardship Meeting @ MLC Handbells Public and Homeschool Catechism Choir
Thursday	10 am 7 pm	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray Bible Class – The Life of David
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Feb. 8 th	8, 9:30 & 11 am 9:30 pm 9:30 pm	Worship Bible Class – 2 Thessalonians Sunday School
Wednesday, Feb. 11 th	6 pm 6:30 pm 7 pm	Handbells Public and Homeschool Catechism Choir
Thursday, Feb. 12 th	10 am 7 pm	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray Bible Class – The Life of David
Saturday, Feb. 14 th	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 559.

Fruits of Faith:

\$10,003 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$68,918 / YTD: \$74,548
\$700 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$5,311 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)
\$1,325 MVL ~ YTD: \$2,513 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)
Wish List: Piano ~ YTD: \$6,825 (\$21,400)
\$545 Building Fund
\$65 K-12 Education Assistance
\$5 Food + Fellowship
\$100 St. Paul's School
\$53 Women of St. John's
\$100 Technology Equipment

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!

Thank You! Members ~ I would like to thank you for the abundance of love and support you have shown Cindy and me, not only for the things in connection with the Celebration of Ministry service last weekend, but for everything you have done for us throughout my ministry among you. God has blessed me in so many ways through you. In Christ, Jim Dretske

Women of St John's ~ Join us on Tuesday, February 3rd at 7 p.m. for a Blind Date with a Book exchange. Bring a wrapped book to share (make sure your name is inside so it can be returned to you). Write a few clues about the plot, genre or theme on the wrapping to entice someone to choose your book, but no spoilers.

Choir Members Wanted! ~ Do you enjoy singing—or would you like to grow in using your voice to serve the Lord?

You are invited to join our Senior Choir! Choir is a beautiful way to praise God, support our worship, and share in Christian fellowship with others who love to sing. Martin Luther wrote that music is a precious gift of God, able to carry the Word of God into the hearts of believers. When God's Word is joined to song, it teaches, comforts, and strengthens faith in a unique and powerful way.

As we approach the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, our music will help proclaim Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. Additional voices would greatly enrich these services, and your participation can help God's Word dwell richly among us.

Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 7:00–8:00 p.m. Singers of all experience levels are welcome. Please consider joining us as we lift our voices together to glorify God and to carry his Word into one another's hearts. If you have any questions, please contact our Senior Choir director, Professor Adrian Smith smithar@mlc-wels.edu .

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!

Cards of Caring ~ Members of St. John's are invited to help make cards we give to congregation members — homebound, elderly, and others. We use donated, recycled, and create our own cards. Cards to be made include Valentine, Warm Winter Wishes, Easter, Confirmation, and Birthday. Help is needed with writing messages, stamping, and assembling cards. Please join us at 403 N. Minnesota St. between 9:00am and noon on Saturday, February 7th, and March 21st. Come and go as your schedule allows. Thank you for helping to serve our members. Contact: Lois Willems (507-676-1230).

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Volleyball Tournaments ~ MLC is once again hosting their annual WELS church volleyball tournaments. The men play on Sat, March 21 and the women compete on Sat, Mar 28. St John's competed for many years and it was a great fellowship/bonding event. If you are interested in playing and/or coordinating the team, please contact the church office for registration information. The entry fee is just \$60 and the deadline to register a team is Feb 13.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Interested in traveling with members of your faith family? The OWLS (WELS Seniors) is partnering with Father's World Tours to offer several group tours that incorporate daily devotion and connections with local WELS ministries. We have three trips ready to register and we'd love to have you along. Spring Training in Arizona...February 20-27. Horsin' Around in Kentucky...April 17-26 from New Ulm or April 18-25 from Milwaukee. Adventures in Alaska...July 20-August 4. Trips are open to W/ELS members of all ages. Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact us (steve@fathersworldtours.com or 507-217-1731) to learn more.

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm on Monday, February 9. Fellowship begins at 11:30 AM with a Papa Murphy's pizza meal at noon, the cost covered by Thrivent Action Team moneys. Following a devotion, Kaitlin Gawrisch from Allina Health will give an overview on "The Heart of New Ulm Project." If you have not already signed up, contact Myron Fluegge at 507-359-2424 or flueggenlj@hotmail.com by Wednesday noon, Feb. 4 for a meal count. Hope you can make it.

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>.

MLC Students Love Auxiliary BINGO Night! ~ BINGO Night is Tuesday, February 10, and we're all excited to make it the best one yet. To do that, we need your help. Please consider donating a quilt or blanket, baked goods, gift cards, or a monetary gift. Drop off items by February 6. (Drop off baked goods on February 9 to assure freshness!) If writing a check, put 'Auxiliary BINGO' in the memo line. Also feel free to mail your donation:

Martin Luther College 1995 Luther Court New Ulm, MN 56073

To donate a cash gift online, visit mlc-wels.edu. Click on "Support MLC" and then "MLC Auxiliary."

MLC Wind Symphony ~ Lent is a time of reflection and a time of hope. As we once again reflect on Christ's journey to the cross, Scripture reminds us that our Savior is the foundation of our lives. Jesus—who he is and what he has done for us—is a foundation that cannot be worn away or washed away by the storms and trials of this world. Please join the Martin Luther College Wind Symphony for "The Lord, My Foundation," a musical reflection on the themes of Lent. The concert will take place at 3 pm, Sunday, February 22, in the Chapel of the Christ. It will also be live-streamed on MLC's YouTube page.

About the Cover ~ Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) presents the heart of his teaching about life in God's kingdom. Jesus calls his followers to a righteousness that goes beyond outward behavior, demanding perfection not just in deeds, but also in words and thoughts. He sets the bar higher than anyone can reach. But he also promises mercy and righteousness to those who humbly repent and trust in him. This moves us to live for him in thanks.