

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
February 7/8, 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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
February 7/8, 2026

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



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, forgive us for the times we've tried to find our identity in our wealth, in our social status, or in anything other than you. We know we have no right to any self-esteem, but by your grace we have Christ-esteem. Help us to find our identity always in the fact that we are redeemed, forgiven, children of you. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Service Setting 4

ANTHEM 9:30am ***10,000 Reasons*** arr. Lloyd Larson

Refrain *Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.*

*The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning; it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes.* Refrain

You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger. Your name is great, and your heart is kind. For all your goodness, I will keep on singing—ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. Refrain

And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near, and my time has come; still my soul will sing your praise unending— ten thousand years and then forevermore. Refrain

- 1 The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days and God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM, by earth and heav'n confessed,
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.
- 2 The God of Abr'ham praise, at whose supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand.
I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and pow'r,
and him my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.
- 3 The God of Abr'ham praise, whose all-sufficient grace
shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.
He deigns to call me friend; he calls himself my God.
And he shall save me to the end through Jesus' blood.
- 4 He by himself has sworn; I on his oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.
I shall behold his face; I shall his pow'r adore
and sing the wonders of his grace forevermore.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSiON OF SINS

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - be - ing



of the Church of God, and for the un - i - ty of all,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their



wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com-fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

GLORY TO GOD



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might - y God and Fa-ther. We

wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your

glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on

us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on



earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 19:1-8a

¹ On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ² After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

³ Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷ So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. ⁸ The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Psalm 103B



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple
 3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him



trib - ute bring. Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same as ev - er,
 frame he knows. In his hand he gent - ly bears us,
 face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



ev - er - more his prais - es sing; Al - le - lu - ia,
 slow to chide, and swift to bless, Al - le - lu - ia,
 res - cues us from all our foes; Al - le - lu - ia,
 all who dwell in time and space, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
 al - le - lu - ia! glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
 al - le - lu - ia! wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows!
 al - le - lu - ia! praise with us the God of grace!

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:9-12

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5:16



Refrain

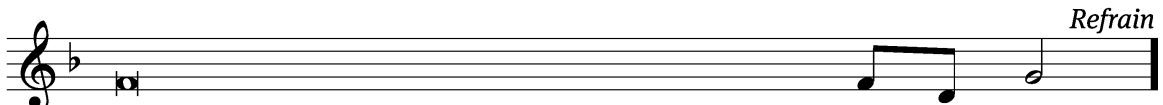


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Let your light shine before oth - ers,



that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heav - en.

Refrain

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

- 1 Lord, you call us as your people, out of darkness into light.
You created and redeemed us, made us precious in your sight.
Give us faith to trust you boldly and to love you steadfastly.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.
- 2 Lord, you call us as disciples, walking on your pilgrim way.
Crucified and risen Savior, you are with us ev'ry day.
Give us wisdom, give us courage as you teach us patiently.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.
- 3 Lord, you send us to the harvest in your Great Commission's call,
reaching out to all the nations, bringing life and hope to all.
Give us boldness and compassion, bless us with your eyes to see.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.
- 4 Lord, you call us to new ventures by a pathway yet unknown.
Though we cannot see the ending, we will follow you alone.
Knowing that your hand is guiding and you love us faithfully,
by your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.
- 5 Lord, you call us as your people, now in faith we sing your praise,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, alleluias to you raise.
Hold us in your gracious power, blessed Holy Trinity,
that rejoicing we will ever faithful to our callings be.

- I. Have Low Self-Esteem
- II. Have High Christ-Esteem

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

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.
Amen.

OFFERING

- 1 Church of God, elect and glorious, holy nation, chosen race,
called as God's own special people, royal priests and heirs of grace;
know the purpose of your calling, show to all his mighty deeds,
tell of love that knows no limits, grace that meets all human needs.
- 2 God has called you out of darkness into his most marv'lous light,
brought his truth to life within you, turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you that God's name is glorified
and all find fresh hope and purpose in Christ Jesus crucified.
- 3 Once you were an alien people, strangers to God's heart of love,
but he brought you home in mercy, citizens of heav'n above.
Let his love flow out to others, let them feel a Father's care,
that they too may know his welcome and his countless blessings share.
- 4 Church of God, elect and holy, be the people he intends,
strong in faith and swift to answer each command your master sends.
Royal priests, fulfill your calling through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service, sing his praise, his love declare.

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* CW 713

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus. (Refrain)

Ref In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST
PRESCHOOL – 8th
PIANO

Pastor Rob Guenther
Pastor Jeff Bovee
Becky Berg
Emily Stoering
Laura Balza

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11am	Worship
	9:30 pm	Bible Class – 2 Thessalonians
	9:30 pm	Sunday School
Monday	6 pm	Board of Evangelism
	7 pm	Board of Youth and Ed.
Tuesday	6 pm	Sunday School Meeting
Wednesday	6 pm	Handbells
	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
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Feb. 15 th	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 pm	Bible Class – 2 Thessalonians
	9:30 pm	Sunday School
Tuesday, Feb. 17 th	4 pm	Oak Hills Service
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 18 th	11 am	Ash Wednesday Worship
	4 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
	5:15 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
	7:15 pm	Choir
Thursday, Feb. 19 th	10 am	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Ask the Pastors
Saturday, Feb. 21 st	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 519 with 433 receiving the Lord's Supper.

Fruits of Faith:

\$14,367 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$86,147/ YTD: \$88,915
\$1,220 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$6,531 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)
\$1,055 MVL ~ YTD: \$4,893 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)
\$75 Wish List: Piano ~ YTD: \$6,825 (\$21,400)
\$620 Building Fund
\$14 Food + Fellowship
\$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$100 Technology Equipment
\$100 Ministerial Education Endowment Fund
\$185 LWMS
\$100 Benevolence Fund

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!

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!

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 flueggemtj@hotmail.com by Wednesday noon, Feb. 4 for a meal count. Hope you can make it.

WELS Group Outing to Les Misérables 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 ~ From where do you get your sense of identity? Where do you find your self-worth? If it's in something as fleeting as your achievements, your popularity, or your net worth, then you're not really worth that much. (No offense.) But if your identity and worth is found in Christ, then you know just how special, valuable, and important you are. Then you can live life differently.