

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



**What's
Taking
So Long?**

2 PETER 3:8-9

Second Sunday in Advent
December 9/10, 2023

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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: Lord, we know that Christmas is coming soon, when we celebrate your first Advent (coming). We also know that Judgment Day is coming, when you will bring about your final Advent (coming). Keep us ready for that Day by your present Advent as you come to us in Word and in Sacrament. Help us to speed that Day's coming as we share the message of your grace with others. We ask it in the name of our coming Savior. Amen.

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Three* page 188

OPENING HYMN *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying* **CW308**

CONFESSION p. 189

FIRST LESSON **Isaiah 40:1–11**

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. ¹¹He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalms 85

SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

And all people will see God's sal - va - tion. *Refrain*

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1–8

¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”— ³“a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School Rehearsal
	11 am	Sunday School Christmas Service
Mon	11:30 am	OWLS Meeting
	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Tue	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	St. Paul's School Band Concert
Wed	9:30 am	Catechism
	11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Services - Gr. 3-4 sing at 4 pm
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	7:15 pm	Choir
Thu	10:30 am	Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	7 pm	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Fri	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
		Wedding Rehearsal
Sat	3 pm	Gabb / Borgwardt Wedding
	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 17	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Dec 18	10:30 am	Stewardship
	6:30 pm	Properties Meeting
Dec 19	6 pm	Council Meeting
	7 pm	Voters' Meeting
Dec 20	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
	4 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
	7 pm	Choir
Dec 21	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Bible Class: The Hard Sayings of Jesus
	2 pm	Ladd / Thomson Wedding
	7 pm	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
Dec 22	7 pm	MVL Concert
	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 585 with 463 attending Communion.

Fruits of faith given:

\$20,291	Home Operations ~ <i>\$30,392 is our weekly need</i>		
\$1,027	MVL ~ <i>\$1,278 is our weekly need</i>	\$200	K-12 Education Assistance
\$1,537	Missions ~ <i>\$1,818 is our weekly need</i>	\$120	Food & Fellowship
\$697	Building Fund	\$100	Benevolence Fund
\$10	75th Ann. Sanctuary Renovation	\$100	Technology Equipment
\$1,000	Kitchen Fund	\$60	Lutheran Charities
\$450	Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund	\$25	St. Paul's School Building Fund

Has Your Contact Information Changed? ~ Please contact the church office at 354-6744 or office@stjohnsnewulm.com with any changes to your **home address, cell phone number, and email address**. Also, if your children have moved, please update us with their new contact information so we can better serve them, too. Thank you!

Wish List Items ~ The Church Council has approved the addition of two items to the Wish List, both of which originated with the Campus Facilities Task Force:

- **48 Chairs** (with arm rests and hymnal racks below the seats) for nave seating -- These linked chairs will replace seating the first three pews on each side of the nave. The seat cover will match the covering planned for the pews. These movable seats will provide flexible seating arrangement (e.g., to accommodate choirs or handicapped). Purchasing these in anticipation of the planned renovations may offset the possible price increases in the coming months.
- **Painting** the walls of the nave -- \$1,000 is the anticipated cost for paint and materials; volunteers will be solicited to provide the labor. The color to be selected will coordinate with the renovation. This project is to be completed before renovations begin.

Please consider supporting these efforts in addition to your regular church offerings.

Handbell Ringers Needed! ~ If you've seen the handbells played at church and thought, "I wish I could do that." Now's your chance! There are openings in the group! You don't need to be able to read music. The notes are color coded for all levels of experience. Come join the fun! For more information contact Becky Berg at rberg@mvlhs.org.

Thank You! ~ A huge thank you to those who volunteered to help refinish the pew railings. All railings were sanded, stained, and varnished during the week of Thanksgiving. The completion of this has saved approximately \$7,000 in our Sanctuary Renovation project. We thank Gerry Horner for organizing the group, as well as for providing high quality materials to complete this project. Just feel how smooth and see how beautiful the top rails are now after having been damaged during Covid. Praise the Lord!

Pictorial Directory Update ~ Members, please submit a picture to sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com or have me take your picture before or after services during December if you are not pictured in our PEW Copy of our 2023 St John's Directory. If your picture is included but you would like to update it, you can do the same. You could also change it on your phone or computer by logging into your account and editing the picture yourself. Pew Copies will be updated in January. New Directories will be available upon request once the information and pictures have been updated.

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.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting on Monday, December 11 at St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, for our annual Christmas gathering. Fellowship begins at 11:30 am, with a catered meal from Joni's at noon, and a Christmas program to follow. Part of the cost for the meal will be covered with Thrivent Action Team grants. Each attendee will be asked to bring \$5 for the meal. We need a count of attendees for the meal. Contact Myron Fluegge by December 5 at 507-359-2424 or email at flueggemtj@hotmail.com if you have not signed up and plan to attend.

St. Paul's School Band Concert ~ The St. Paul School Junior Raider Band and Raider Band will perform their Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 pm in the school gymnasium. This year's concert will include buckets, boomwhackers, and kazoos. Come join the fun!

MVL Christmas Concert ~ "Christ Breaks Through," will be presented on Thursday, December 21st in our school gymnasium. The concert will feature the Symphonic Band, Freshman Choir, A Capella Choir, Chargaliers, and Charger Junior Choir. Doors to the gym will open at 6:15 pm. The band will begin playing at 6:45. with the processional of the choirs at 7:00. We sincerely hope that you can join us as we finish our semester with the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus, who pierces our darkness with his marvelous light! Merry Christmas to you all!

St. Paul's Preschool Open House ~ Monday, January 15, 2024, from 4 – 7pm! New preschoolers, please come and visit! 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 (New Ulm & Sleepy Eye) and St. Paul's members and our school families are invited to have first choice of preschool sessions through January 15th. (Community "Open Registration" begins January 16th. Some sessions fill by early February). If you have questions, please contact our preschool director, Mrs. Heidi Meyer at preschool@splnewulm.org.

Housing Needed for International Student ~ MVL would like to host a young man from Germany next year. However, we are in need of a host family willing to open their home to this young man. He will only be with us for one semester, which means he will arrive in late August and then leave just before Christmas. Host families are compensated for serving in this capacity. If you are interested, please contact MVL Principal Tim Plath at tplath@mvlhs.org or 507-354-6851.

About the Cover ~ Does it sometimes seem like God is taking way too long to come back and put things right? He's not being slow. He's being patient. He's waiting for more to come to faith. Do you want to speed the day along and make it come sooner? God tells us how: Share our faith with others that they too might know the grace, forgiveness, and joy that are ours in Christ. When the last of the elect comes to faith, God will end this world. Let's do all we can to speed that Day!