

"In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety." Jeremiah 33:15-16



First Sunday in Advent
November 30 / December 1, 2024

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church



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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
November 30 / December 1, 2024

Prayer before Worship: Almighty God, who alone can bring life from death and call those things to be which are not: Raise us, renew us, and revive us by your Holy Spirit. As those who have been reborn and resurrected from death by the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ, who lived and died to save us, cause us to well up in songs of joy and proclaim your praises. Bless our worship and strengthen our faith through your Word and unfailing promises. We pray these things in Jesus' saving name. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE Service Setting 3

OPENING HYMN *Behold, a Branch Is Growing* CW 360

- 1 Behold, a branch is growing
 of loveliest form and grace!
As prophets sang, foreknowing,
 it springs from Jesse's race
and now begins to flow'r
 in midst of coldest winter,
at deepest midnight hour.
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it
 in words of promise sure,
and Mary's arms enfold it,
 a virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will
 this child to her is given
at midnight calm and still.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
 with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
 the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, and yet true God,
 from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,
 who felt our human woes,
O Savior, King of glory,
 who conquered all our foes,
bring us at last, we pray,
 to the bright courts of heaven
and to the endless day.

Stand

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

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. 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. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14–16

¹⁴“ ‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵“ ‘In those days and at that time
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;
he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.
This is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

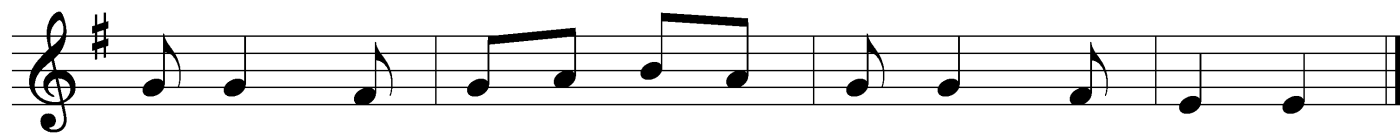
PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 24

Refrain



Wel - come the King of glo - ry, each tribe and na - tion!



He is the LORD Al - might - y, bring - ing sal - va - tion.

Tone



The earth is the LORD's, and every- / thing in it,
the world, and all who / live in it;
for he founded it / on the seas
and established it on the / waters.

Who may ascend the mountain / of the LORD?
Who may stand in his / holy place?
The one who has clean hands and a / pure heart,
they will receive blessing from God their / Savior. *Refrain*

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you / ancient doors,
that the King of glory / may come in.
Who is this King of / glory?
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in / battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you / ancient doors,
that the King of glory / may come in.
Who is he, this King of / glory?
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of / glory.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹²May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Zechariah 9:9



Refrain

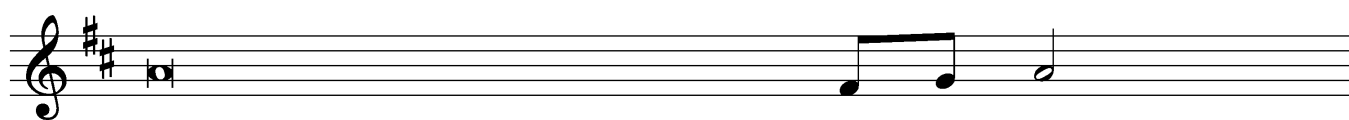


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

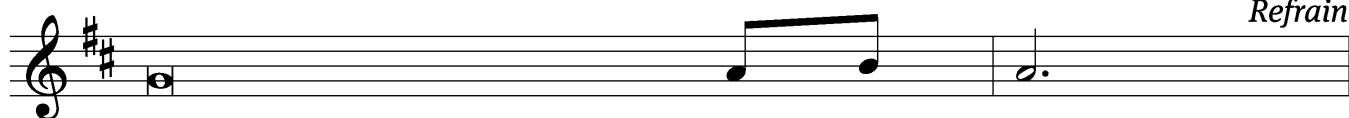


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Tone



See, your king comes to you, righteous and vic - to - rious,



lowly and riding on a don - key.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Luke 19:28–40

²⁸After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

³²Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.

³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

³⁴They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

³⁵They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.

³⁶As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

⁴⁰“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

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

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come

CW 301

- 1 Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
by the Spirit of our God
was the Word of God made flesh,
woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
of the virgin undefiled,
though by all the world disowned,
yet to be in heav'n enthroned!
- 4 From the Father's throne he came
and ascended to the same,
captive leading death and hell.
High the song of triumph swell!
- 5 Praise to God the Father sing,
praise to God the Son, our King,
praise to God the Spirit be
ever and eternally.

SERMON

The LORD will Fulfill His Gracious Promise

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

OFFERING

Stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,

heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

**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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.



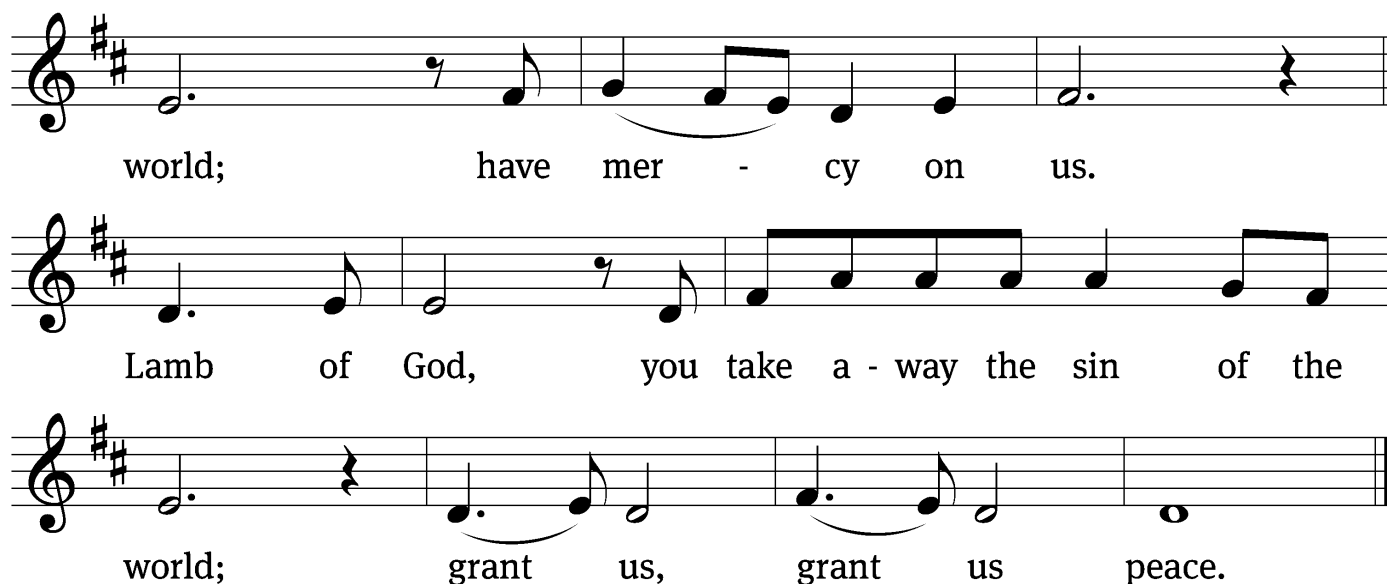
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins.

As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go T in peace.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *The Infant Priest Was Holy Born* CW 674

1 The infant Priest was holy born
for us unholy and forlorn;
from fleshly temple forth came he,
anointed from eternity.

2 This great High Priest in human flesh
was icon of God's righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;
his hand removed impurity.

3 The holy Lamb undaunted came
to God's own altar lit with flame;
while weeping angels hid their eyes,
this Priest became a sacrifice.

4 But death would not the victor be
of him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place
within the veil, before God's face.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
as at the rail on bended knee
our hungry mouths from him receive
the bread of immortality.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
a priestly food and priestly meat;
on sin-parched lips the chalice pours
his quenching blood that life restores.

7 With cherubim and seraphim
our voices join the endless hymn,
and "Holy, holy, holy" sing
to Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent
your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have
given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not
forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we
willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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

As Angels Joyed with One Accord

CW 320

- 1 As angels joyed with one accord
upon the advent of our Lord,
so let us gladly praise the name
of him who from the Father came.
- 2 He came, not clothed in majesty
nor pow'r that suits his deity.
In lowly state he walked till he
in dying set us captives free.
- 3 This done, he soared to God's right hand,
yet orphaned not his chosen band,
for he, not bound in grace and pow'r,
attends his own each day and hour.
- 4 In ev'ry age—let praise abound—
he comes; we hear his voice resound.
His glorious gospel does not cease
to bring us comfort, joy, and peace.
- 5 He comes in water to the child
and cleanses it, from birth defiled.
This washing seals his pard'ning grace
and shows the Father's kindly face.
- 6 He comes to us in bread and wine
to give himself and gifts divine.
O praise him for this sacrament,
redeeming love's great testament!
- 7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
shall vanish when he comes again.
Where we shall see him face to face,
there joy alone shall have a place.

PREACHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGAN

Pastor Jeff Bovee

Pastor Rob Guenther

Becky Berg

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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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
Monday	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Tuesday	7 pm	Women of St. John's Christmas Party
Wednesday	11 am	Midweek Service
	3:30 pm	Home School and Public Catechism
	4, 6:30 pm	Midweek Service
	5 pm	Advent Meal
	5:30 pm	Handbells
	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	8:30 am	Christmas for Kids
	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Dec. 88,	9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Biblical Conflict Resolution
	3:30 pm	Youth Group Christmas Caroling
Monday, Dec. 9	11:30 am	OWLS
	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 10	4 pm	Oak Hills Service
	6 pm	Sunday School Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 11	11 am	Midweek Service
	3:30 pm	Homeschool 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, Dec. 12	10 am	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
	7 pm	Bible Class: Proverbs
Friday, Dec. 13	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Proverbs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 631

Fruits of Faith:

\$13,352 Home Operations ~ Year to Date needed: \$828,427 / Year to Date received: \$796,273

\$1,383 WELS Missions ~ Received to Date: \$79,702 (2024 Goal: \$78,000)

\$1,519 MVL ~ Received to Date: \$52,671 (2024 Goal: \$52,000)

\$40 Endowment Fund

\$11 Food and Fellowship

\$10 K-12 Education Assistance

\$23 Miscellaneous

\$1 Lutheran Charities

\$400 Christian Aid and Relief

\$ 625 Building Fund

(Does not Include Thanksgiving Offerings)

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.

Women of St. John's ~ Please join us on Tuesday, December 3rd at 7 p.m. for our annual Christmas Party. We will be meeting at the Garden Terrace Apartments Community Room located at 1021 N Garden Street here in New Ulm (next to Oak Hills Living Center). Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift for one of our games. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the new narthex where you can also indicate if you need a ride. Please contact

Sarah Logston with any questions (logstonsarah@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

Communion Announcement ~ At St. John's we practice "close communion." That is, we invite only those who are in fellowship with us as members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church (or of a synod that is in fellowship with us) to commune with us. We are in no way judging your personal faith. But we recognize that in the Lord's supper we enjoy not only a close communion, or fellowship, with God, but we also enjoy a close communion with one another as we publicly express our agreement in every teaching of God's Word. And we wouldn't presume to ask you to publicly confess your agreement with all that we teach and believe without first being instructed in what it is that we teach and believe. But if you do desire to commune with us, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Ulm Food Shelf ~ St. John's supports the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf by providing 3 adult volunteers to assist clients on the third Monday of each month from 11:45-3 p.m. Duties include accompanying clients as they select their food options based on distribution guidelines, weighing carts, and pushing carts to the garage where the clients load their items into their cars. If you are interested in volunteering to help in 2025, please indicate your availability on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have questions or want to sign up by phone, call Carla Melendy (507-217-9750) or Deb Beatty (507-276-2722). You will receive a schedule of all volunteers and their assigned months in December.

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

Wind Symphony Concert ~ One of the earliest multi-movement works for instruments was the dance suite, dating back to the 14th century. The form has been tweaked many times over the years, but one characteristic has largely remained true: a musical suite is connected by a single idea tying all the movements together, be it melody, harmony, rhythmic motive, or theme. Please join the MLC Wind Symphony as they present Suite Sounds for Winds and Percussion. The program includes works by Holst, Williams, and Stravinsky and will be held in the MLC auditorium on Sunday, November 24, at 3:00 pm. This concert is free and open to the public. Can't make it in person? Watch the livestream on MLC's YouTube channel.

MLC Christmas Concert ~ Martin Luther College invites you to the annual Christmas concert, *And on Earth, Peace*, presented Saturday, December 7, at 7:30 pm and 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!

About the Cover ~ God foretold through the prophets that he would send a "Righteous Branch" which would grow from the family tree of Jesse, the father of King David. Although there was a time in history when it appeared that the royal line of David had all but come to an end, and the nation of Israel was a conquered and subdued race of people, God still kept his promise. Like a green branch sprouting out of a seemingly dead stump, Jesus Christ came into this world to give life to those who were dead in sin.