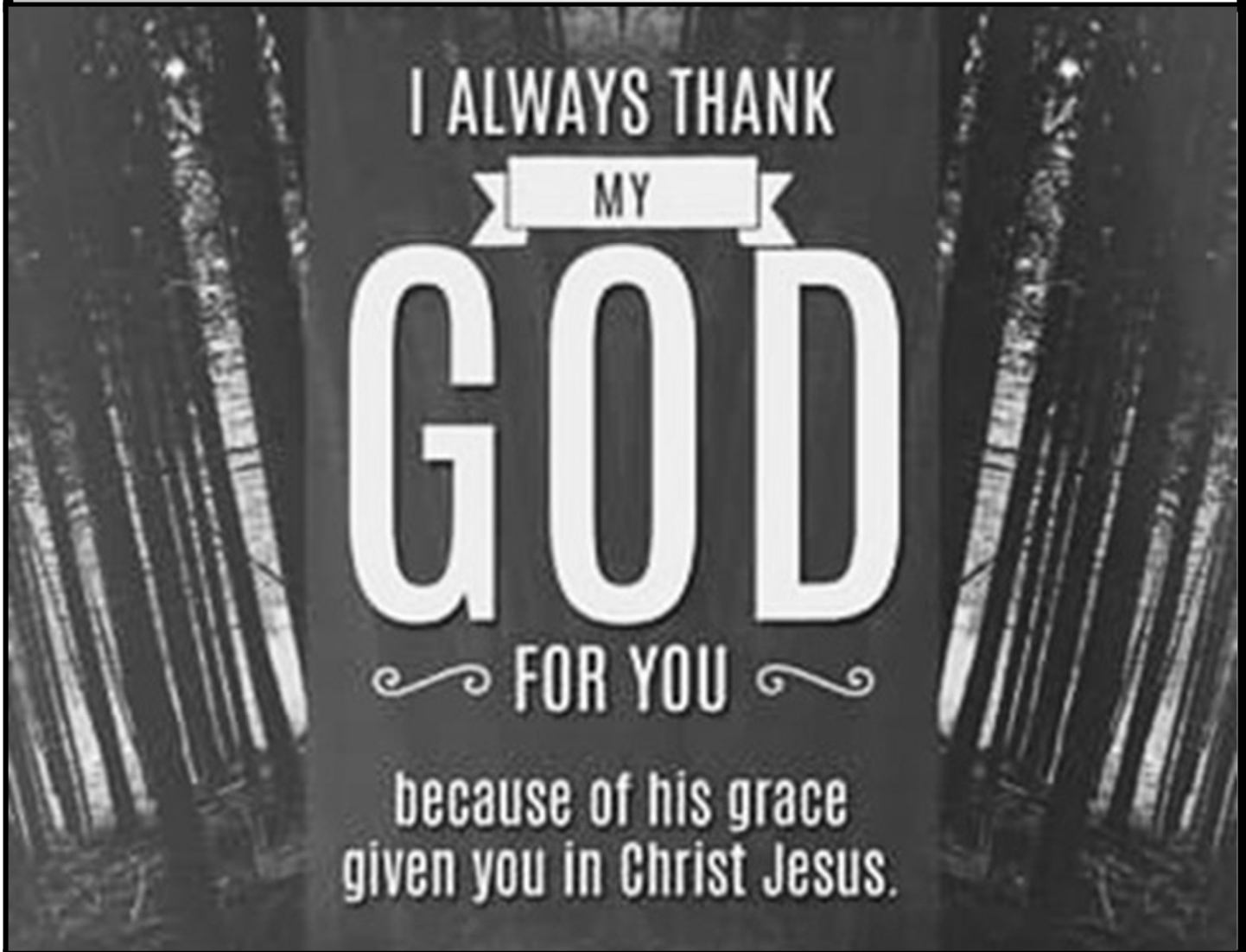


St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



First Sunday in Advent
December 2/3, 2023

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com
507-217-6364

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354-6744

Pastor Rob Guenther
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507-240-2433

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

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Two* page 172

CONFESSION p. 172

¹Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ²As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. ⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM of the DAY *Psalms 24*

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

⁸He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

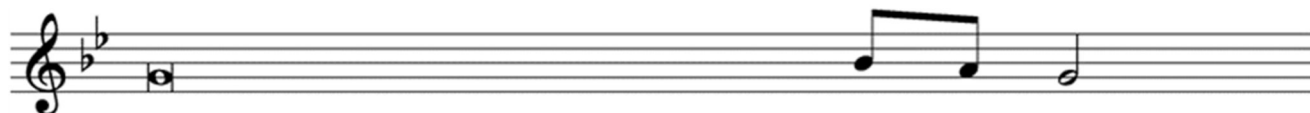
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am com - ing soon.”



Amen. Come, Lord

Je - sus.

GOSPEL

Mark 11:1–10

¹As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ²saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

⁴They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord!”¹⁰ “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY *Savior of the Nations, Come* **CW301**

SERMON **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Always Give Thanks to God!

I. For the Ways He Has Blessed Us

II. For the Way He Will Keep Us

NICENE CREED p. 180

OFFERING/ COMMUNION

If you are not a member of a WELS/ELS congregation, please see the explanation in the announcements.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* **CW663**

PRAYERS (*Contemporary*) **and BLESSING** p. 187

† † †

PREACHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGAN

Pastor Rob Guenther

Pastor Jeff Bovee

Pastor Jacob Behnken

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the QR code to
sign our Guest Register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Book of Job
	4 pm	MLC Christmas Concert
Mon	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Tue	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Wed	9:30 am	Catechism
	11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Services
	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
Sat	9 am	Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Decorate the Church
	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 10	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School
	11 am	Sunday School Christmas Service
Dec 11	11:30 am	OWLS Meeting
	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Dec 12	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	St. Paul's School Band Concert
Dec 13	9:30 am	Catechism
	11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Services
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	7:15 pm	Choir
Dec 14	10:30 am	Bible Class: Hard Sayings of Jesus
	7 pm	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 336.

Fruits of faith given:

\$33,972	Home Operations ~ \$30,392 is our weekly need		
\$1,567	MVL ~ \$1,278 is our weekly need	\$50	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$697	Missions ~ \$1,818 is our weekly need	\$30	Youth Group
\$852	Building Fund	\$20	Endowment Fund
\$22,030	75th Ann. Sanctuary Renovation	\$20	Food & Fellowship

Special Gift for Sanctuary Renovation ~ This past week we received two anonymous gifts of \$10,000 each for our sanctuary renovation project. The total received so far is \$61,217. Our thanks to these donors, and to all who have given to this 75th anniversary project. We will be discussing the next steps for sanctuary renovation at the January voters meeting.

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.

Can You Help? ~ Decorating the church for Christmas will take place on Saturday, December 9th at 10:30 am. Anyone who would like to help is welcome!

Women of St. John's ~ On Tuesday, Dec. 5th, at 7 - 8:30 pm, there will be a Christmas party for all the women of St. John's. Come enjoy Advent devotions, yummy food, and Christian fellowship with other ladies of our church. Instead of a gift exchange this year we are collecting gift cards for anyone who wants to donate to the second career students attending MLC.

MLC Advent Books ~ have arrived! If you preordered a book, you will find it in your bulletin box. The books are free thanks to a generous donor who has covered the cost. Thank you!

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.

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

MLC Christmas Concert ~ Martin Luther College's highly anticipated Christmas concert will be presented this Sunday, December 3, at 4 pm in the MLC Chapel of the Christ. The combined choirs of Martin Luther College, the Wind Symphony, and the Hosanna Ringers invite you to join them in this musical celebration of the birth of Christ. Under the theme, Unto Us a Child Is Born, the program features choruses and solos from Handel's Messiah, as well as settings of familiar carols and Christmas compositions centering on the grace and joy that entered the world through Christ: The Son was sent into the world that the world might be saved through him. 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 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!

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 ~ The Apostle Paul wasn't just thankful to God one day a year, but "always." And he wasn't just grateful for food, shelter, health, and family. He was especially grateful for the greater blessings of God that were given by his grace: God's forgiveness and the peace that came by it, the spiritual gifts God had given to him and to others to help expand the kingdom, and the promise of God's preservation of his and others' faith until the day of Jesus' return. As we look forward to Jesus' final advent on Judgment Day, may we prepare by focusing on his first advent to humankind at his birth by the cross and empty tomb by seeking him in his present advent, where he comes to us in Word and Sacrament. In doing so, God will preserve us in our faith until he comes.