



“Come, let us go unto the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” Isaiah 2

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT • NOVEMBER 26 / 27, 2022



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

Prayer before worship: Almighty and everliving God, as we seek peace in this world where sin and wickedness abound, grant us what our Lord Jesus promised: Peace, not as the world gives, but true and lasting peace; peace even in the midst of chaos and turmoil. Grant us the joy of knowing that our sins are forgiven and that we are reconciled to you through the perfect life and innocent death of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Bring us to the spiritual mountain of the LORD where true worshipers worship you in spirit and in truth. Receive our prayers and praises through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Order of Service: *The Service: Setting One* page 154

9:30 am: *Christian Worship: Holy Baptism* page 151

OPENING HYMN - *Sat., 8 & 11 am* *Christ Is the World's Light* **CW515**

BAPTISM HYMN - *9:30 am* *Lord, Bless Your Word to All the Young* **CW762**

CONFESSION p. 155

FIRST LESSON **Isaiah 2:1–5**

¹This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

²In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY *Psalm 24*

SECOND LESSON **Philippians 4:4–7**

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 161

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Come to us, Emmanuel; come and set your people free.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1–11

¹As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵“Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come

CW 301

SERMON

Isaiah 2:1-5

THERE IS A LIGHT SHINING IN THE CHURCH

1. SO THAT WE MAY WALK THE PATH OF GOD

2. SO THAT WE MAY LIVE IN ETERNAL PEACE

APOSTLES' CREED

p. 163

OFFERING

see announcement

HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

CW 302

PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER *(Contemporary)*

p. 171

CLOSING HYMN *O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort*

CW326

† † †

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST

Pastor Jeff Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Becky Berg

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the code to
sign our Guest Register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

| | | |
|-----|--------------------|---|
| Sun | 8, 9:30 & 11 am | Worship |
| Mon | 6 pm | Endowment Committee Meeting |
| Tue | 4 pm | Oak Hills Living Center Service |
| Wed | 11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm | Midweek Advent Services |
| | 4 pm | Jr. Choir sings |
| | 4:45 - 6:15 pm | Fellowship Supper |
| | 6 pm | Public Catechism |
| | 7:30 pm | Choir |
| Thu | 10:30 am | Adult Bible Class: Prayers of the Bible |
| | 6 pm | Handbells |
| | 7 pm | Adult Bible Class: Minor Prophets |
| Fri | 11 am | Visitation |
| | 1 pm | Funeral Service for Bev Haar |
| Sat | 8 am | Trustees Meeting |
| | 8:30 am | Christmas for Kids |
| | 6:30 pm | Worship |
| | 7:30 pm | MLC Christmas Concert |

† Upcoming Services †

Midweek Advent:

Wednesday: 11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm

Saturday: 6:30 pm

Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|--------|--------------------|---|
| Dec 4 | 8, 9:30 & 11 am | Worship |
| | 9:30 am | Sunday School and Bible Class: Approaching Gender Identity and Sexuality With a Listening Heart |
| | 4 pm | MLC Christmas Concert |
| Dec 5 | 11 am | Stewardship Meeting |
| | 6:30 pm | Elders Meeting |
| Dec 6 | 7 pm | Women of St. John's Meeting |
| Dec 7 | 11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm | Midweek Advent Services |
| | 4:45 - 6:15 pm | Fellowship Supper |
| | 6 pm | Public Catechism |
| | 7:30 pm | Choir |
| Dec 8 | 10:30 am | Adult Bible Class: Prayers of the Bible |
| | 6 pm | Handbells |
| | 7 pm | Adult Bible Class: Minor Prophets |
| Dec 9 | 9:30 am | Women's Bible Class: <i>The Screentape Letters</i> |
| Dec 10 | 6:30 pm | Worship |

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 674 with 519 attending Communion.

Baptisms ~ In His Gracious Love, our Lord granted Joelle and Nick Price the gift of two boys on November 15th. Max and Samson will enter the washing of rebirth this Sunday during the 9:30 service. We commend them into the care of the Good Shepherd that they may remain in their baptismal faith.

Amazon Charity Option ~ Go to: <https://amzn.to/3n1T32V> to support St. John's through your personal Amazon purchases.

Kitchen Project ~ During the October meeting, the St. John's voters approved up to \$100,000 for updating the current kitchen. The kitchen fund currently has \$38,000, allowing our congregation to see what type of appeal St. John's can handle. A foundational principle of this project is that updates, like appliances, can also be used in future expansion efforts. Work has begun with the contractor and tradespeople on the timetable for the project. Concept drawings and pictures can be viewed electronically at bit.ly/SJkitchen2023. Gifts for this project are currently being received by writing "Kitchen Project" on offering envelopes or check memo lines.

Sunday Bible Class ~ *Approaching Gender Identity and Sexuality with a Listening Heart* - Issues surrounding gender identity and sexuality have dominated news cycles in 2022. Who has the responsibility to teach children about sexuality and answer their questions about how they view themselves? Join us for this Sunday morning Bible class series as we explore Christian sexuality and the two kingdoms of gender identity.

Women of St. John's ~ The December Meeting of the WSJ will be held on Tuesday, December 6th at 7 pm in the church basement. We welcome all ladies to our Christmas party! Please join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship!

Burp Cloths Needed for ECLC ~ The MLC Early Childhood Learning Center needs new burp cloths for the infant rooms. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are interested in sewing some for the classes. Please indicate if you need fabric or if you have spare fabric.

Youth Group ~ The Youth Group will be hosting Christmas for Kids on Saturday, December 3rd from 8:30-11:30 am. Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas including teaching, crafts, games, snacks, shepherds, registration etc. Please sign up for a spot on the St. John's website or scan the QR code. All volunteers will need to be at church by 8 am and a meal will be provided after the event. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Ulicky at kru8880@gmail.com Thank you!



Christmas for Kids ~ Oh Come Little Children Oh Come One and All...Christmas for Kids will be December 3rd from 8:30 - 11:30 am for Grades PreK4 - 5th grade. This is a fun-filled event that tells the story of our Savior's birth. Your child will enjoy crafts, snacks, games, music and more. Doors will open at 8:30am. Please sign up on the website or at bit.ly/SJC4K2022! There are registration cards in the narthex if you have limited internet access. If you have any questions contact Kristin Ulicky at kru8880@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunity ~ Thank you to all the St. John's member volunteers who offered their time and talent this past year to help out at the NU Emergency Food Shelf for 2022. We have another opportunity to volunteer at the Food Shelf, 1305 S. Valley St., on the 3rd Monday of each month from 11:45 am - 3 pm. Two to three volunteers are needed for the dates referenced below. High school and college students are welcome to volunteer.

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| March 20 | June 19 | September 18 | December 18 |
| April 17 | July 17 | October 16 | |
| May 15 | August 21 | November 20 | |

Les Miserables in Minneapolis ~ St John's members are invited to join members of the MLC family and the New Ulm Castle group for a Thielen motor coach bus trip to Minneapolis to see Les Miserables at the Orpheum Theatre on Saturday, December 10. The cost is \$75 and includes the bus ride and an upper balcony show ticket. The bus will leave MLC at 11:15 and drop off at the theatre at 1:30 for the 2:00 matinee. A return dinner stop will be made at the Eden Prairie Mall (meal on your own). ETA back at MLC is 8:30. Limited seats are available. Learn more and purchase tickets at www.bit.ly/MLCLesMis or call Steve Balza at 507-217-1731 with any questions.



Church Directory ~ Many of the pictures that were in the 2022 Edition are fine to use in the 2023 Directory. However, there are some families whose children have grown or even increased in number. Members who are not yet pictured received an email and a note in their church mailboxes requesting pictures. I hope you will consider adding your picture to the directory. Members can submit an updated picture via email to sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com or look for me before or after services to take your picture. If anyone has a changed address, phone number, or have children now in college or military, please fill out and update information on sheets available in the new narthex and drop it off in the office. Thank you! Jim Dretske, Staff Minister

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

Men's Dartball ~ The WELS DARTBALL LEAGUE, dormant the past 2 ½ years because of the pandemic, is starting up on Monday evening December 12, at 7 pm in the lower level dartball room at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm. Any male player in eighth grade or older is eligible to play. This is a great opportunity for new players from St. John's to get involved in fun, fellowship, and camaraderie. Interested players should contact Myron Fluegge by phone: 507-359-2424 or email: flueggemtj@hotmail.com by Wednesday, December 7.

Ammo Can Drive ~ Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is a non-profit organization that provides Christ-centered support to WELS/ELS military service members, veterans, and their families. Through donor support, we offer retreats for WELS/ELS veterans who struggle with posttraumatic stress and provide financial support for second career military personnel training for positions as called workers in our synodical training schools. Gifts to LMSG can be placed in the green Ammo Can in the new Narthex or online at www.lutheranmilitary.org. Thank you for supporting our Christian Warriors!

MLC Concert ~ Martin Luther College invites you to the annual Christmas concert, *Dawn of Redeeming Grace*, presented Saturday, December 3, at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 4, at 4 pm in the MLC Chapel of the Christ. All are welcome as we open the Advent season with this joyous campus tradition!

St. Paul's School Band Concert ~ All are invited to the St. Paul School Band Concert on Thursday, December 15, at 7 pm in the gymnasium. The Raider Band and the Junior Band will perform along with some smaller ensembles. Come and join us!

Coaches Needed ~ MVL is currently looking for three head coaches: dance team, baseball, and softball. If you are interested please send a resume to Craig Morgan at cmorgan@mvlhs.org or call 507-276-7576 with any questions.

Staff Minister Jim Dretske
Teacher Christine Baganz
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Phil Scriver
Teacher Emily Stoering
St. John's Church Office

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About the Cover ~ This portrayal of Christ by contemporary artist Simon Dewey, depicts the Savior with a lamp in one hand shining the way to peace and salvation, and gesturing with the other hand to follow him. That is because only in Jesus do we find true peace, joy, and contentment in a sin-darkened world. As he beckons us to follow we remember the words of Isaiah who invites us: *"Come, let us go unto the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths."*