




Second Sunday in Advent • December 7 / 8, 2019

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street
New Ulm, MN

www.stjohnsnewulm.com

Email: stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm

507-354-6744

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com
507-225-0158 Cell

Pastor Rob Guenther
pastorguenther@gmail.com
507-240-2433 Cell

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.

Second Sunday in Advent

December 7/8, 2019

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, may we heed the message of the Baptizer: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." May our repentance be found in the blessed message of the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and Savior. As we remember how John called many to abandon their sinful lives and to follow the Savior, so may we too, with deep humility and sorrow over sin, and yet with joy and confidence in God's grace, come before you, O Lord, seeking your salvation. Bless us now as we come before you in worship. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Order of Service: **Saturday:** *Evening Prayer* page 52
 Sunday: *Morning Praise* page 45

OPENING HYMN *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying* CW13

PSALM of the DAY Psalm 130 p. 114

LESSON

Romans 15:4-13

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name." Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples." And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

John A. Behnke
8 am

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Dayspring from on high, Emmanuel, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, Emmanuel, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD-- and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give

decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like

the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

The Lord will come again in glory.
The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

HYMN of the DAY

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

CW28

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the

whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for

Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is Here!

- 1. The Warning of Coming Judgment**
- 2. The Promise of Eternal Consolation**

**MAGNIFICAT
TE DEUM**

Saturday
Sunday

CW p. 57
CW p. 48

OFFERING

PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

Behold, a Branch Is Growing

***CW* 47**
Stanzas 1 and 2

† † †

**PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST
JUNIOR CHOIR (Gr. 5-8)**

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Steve Thiesfeldt
Grace Hennig

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

© 2019 Morningstar Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725067.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

| | | |
|-----|----------------|--|
| Sun | 8 am | Junior Choir sings |
| | 4 pm | MLC Christmas Concert |
| Mon | 10 am | Pastors' Study Club at St. Paul's Church |
| | 7 pm | Evangelism Meeting |
| Tue | 7 pm | Trustees Meeting |
| | 4 pm | Oak Hills Living Center Service |
| | 6 pm | Sunday School Teachers' Meeting |
| Wed | 11 am | Midweek Advent Service |
| | 4 pm | Midweek Advent Service |
| | 4:45 - 6 pm | Fellowship Supper |
| | 6:30 pm | Midweek Advent Service |
| | 6:30 pm | Public Catechism |
| Thu | 7:15 pm | Mixed Choir |
| | 10:30 am | Adult Bible Class: 2 Kings |
| | 7 pm | Adult Bible Class: Colossians |
| | 7 pm | St. Paul's School Band Concert |
| Fri | 6:30 am | Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God Part 2" |
| | 9:30 am | Women's Bible Class: Ecclesiastes |
| Sat | 9:30 am | Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal |

† Upcoming Services †

Midweek Advent Services:
Wednesday: 11 am, 4 pm and 6:30 pm

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|--------|----------------|--|
| Dec 15 | 9:30 am | Mission Trip Presentation/Sunday School and Bible Class: Q&A |
| | 1 pm | Youth Group: Decorate Gingerbread Houses |
| Dec 17 | 7 pm | Council Meeting |
| Dec 18 | 11 am | Midweek Advent Service |
| | 4 pm | Midweek Advent Service |
| | 4:45 - 6 pm | Fellowship Supper |
| | 6:30 pm | Midweek Advent Service |
| | 6:30 pm | Public Catechism |
| Dec 19 | 7:15 pm | Mixed Choir |
| | 8 am | St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal |
| | 10 am | MLC Midyear Graduation |
| | 10:30 am | Adult Bible Class: 2 Kings |
| | 7 pm | Adult Bible Class: Colossians |
| Dec 20 | 7 pm | St. Paul's School Band Concert |
| | 6:30 am | Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God Part 2" |
| | 8 am | St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal |
| Dec 21 | 7 pm | MVL Christmas Concert |
| | 9:30 am | Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal |

The full church calendar can be found at www.stjohnsnewulm.com

ST. JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 446 with 315 attending Communion.

Fruits of faith given:

| | | | |
|----------|---|-------|---------------------------|
| \$18,340 | Home Operations ~ \$39,056 is our weekly need | | |
| \$1,110 | MVL ~ \$3,252 is our weekly need | \$155 | K-12 Education Assistance |
| \$1,605 | Missions ~ \$2,929 is our weekly need | \$100 | Kitchen Fund |
| \$785 | Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need | \$20 | Church Library Fund |
| \$20 | Wish List: Handbells | | |

Altar Flowers ~ have been given in honor of the 23rd wedding anniversary of Henry and Denise Karstens.

2020 Contribution Envelopes ~ The 2020 offering envelopes can be found either in your bulletin box or in alphabetical order on the tables in the new narthex. To ensure you receive proper credit, please do not use the 2020 envelopes until January 1st. Also, do not use 2019 envelopes after December 31st - please dispose of them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Year End Contributions ~ All 2019 contributions must be received by St. John's by December 31. Anything received January 1 or after will be included with 2020 contributions.

Parents of College Students ~ We're hoping to send college students of our congregation cards and meditations. Please email their snail mail address to Lisa Goeglein at stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com. Thank you!

Youth Group ~ Thank you to all who helped decorate the church and those who helped for the Christmas for Kids event! On Sunday, December 15, we're going to decorate Gingerbread Houses from 1-3 pm. Please sign up on the board so we know how many houses to make. Contact Lisa Goeglein at ali3b2g@gmail.com or 507-217-7117 with questions.

Midweek Advent Services ~ St. John's will be adding an 11 am Midweek Advent service on December 11 and 18 in addition to the 4 and 6:30 pm services.

Looking for a Volunteer ~ we are looking for someone to take over the greeting card responsibilities from Tonya Kowalke. The duties would be ordering and stocking the cards. If you are interested, please contact Tonya with additional questions at 507-359-2250 or Denise Karstens at 507-766-5899. Please consider serving the Lord in this way.

EHV Bibles ~ The EHV Bibles have arrived and are ready to be picked up and paid for. Please pick up your Bible from Pastor Guenther's office your convenience. There is an envelope for payment on the bookshelf. Please also highlight your name so that we know who has picked theirs up.

Contributions for St. Paul's School Building Fund ~ Please make out checks to "St. John's Lutheran Church" and indicate "St Paul's School Building Fund" on your offering envelope. This will help us better track our congregation's support of the building project. These amounts will be reflected on your St. John's contribution statement. Thank You!

Christmas Pre-Service Music ~ Grade school age music students are again invited to prepare Christmas music to be used for worship before the Sunday school service at 11 am on Dec. 22 or before the St. Paul's Children's Christmas Service at 4 pm on Dec. 24. You can pick up a form from Laura Balza at St. Paul's, or in the church narthex.

Fleece for Blankets ~ John and Paul Ministries January event, *Winter Carnival*, will include an opportunity to make fleece tie blankets that our pastors can give to those in need. We will be looking for **donations of 1.5-3 yards each of coordinating fleece fabric** (a front and back). Do not tie the blanket already-that will be done at the event. Donated fleece can go into designated bins in the narthex areas or the church office. More information on *Winter Carnival* coming soon!

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

MVL News ~ *Bus Drivers Needed for MVL Routes* Palmer Bus Service provides safe and reliable transportation for students. We're looking for MVL route drivers and substitute drivers for these great kids. Paid training! Full-time and part-time positions available. Interested individuals should contact Site Manager Casey Stearns at 507-995-5387. *Christmas Concert* The Freshmen Choir, A Capella Choir, Choraliers, and Symphonic Band are eagerly preparing pieces that celebrate our Savior's birth. Preconcert music will be provided by the band beginning at 6:45 pm with the concert beginning at 7 pm in the MVL gymnasium on Friday, December 20. All are invited!

MLC Christmas Concert ~ Martin Luther College's highly anticipated Christmas Concert will be presented Sunday, December 8, 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. This year's program, entitled "*Joy Has Dawned*," offers a highly eclectic blend of music for choir, instruments, and congregation, centering on the joy that dawned upon the world at the Savior's birth: The Son was sent into the world that the world might be saved through him. Light refreshments will be served in the Chapel Fellowship Room after each concert. All are welcome as we open the Advent season with this joyous campus tradition!

OWLS Meeting ~ on December 9th. Our Program: 11:30 Fellowship; 12:00 Ham Dinner (This is not a potluck!); 12:45 Devotion; 1:00 Luke 2 reading with Carols and Table Game Overview of 2020 Chapter Programs. A free will offering will be accepted for the meal. Our 2020 national dues should also be paid. (\$15) Please register for the dinner by calling Dale Markgraf by December 1.

St. Paul's School Winter Band Concert ~ The St. Paul School Raider Bands will be giving their winter concert on December 12, 2019 at 7 pm in the school gymnasium. Please join us for a concert of favorite sacred hymns and Christmas carols!

MLC One Act Play ~ MLC Forum presents: *Off the Beaten Path* on December 13-14 at 7:30 pm and December 15 at 2 pm in the WCC Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for all attendees and will be sold at the door only. Visit mlc-wels.edu/forum for more information.

Job Opening ~ We are taking staff applications at Jesus Loves Me Learning Center in North Mankato! JLMMLC has six rooms and the purpose of our center is to share the message of Jesus our Savior with everyone. All six rooms have a child-centered environment where children learn and thrive in all developmental areas. We offer competitive wages and fun-filled days. Email directorjlm@stpaulsnorthmankato.com for more information or call 507-508-2041.

Staff Minister Kelly Emde
Administrative Teacher Jim Dretske
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Karen Grunwald
Teacher Jean Schroeder
St. John's Church Office

kremde@comcast.net
jdretske@splnewulm.org
lbalza@splnewulm.org
kgrunwald@splnewulm.org
jschroeder@splnewulm.org
stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

About the Cover ~ John the Baptizer was a prophet who came with a message of repentance and baptized for the forgiveness of sins. His was not a new or different message, but one which pointed to the fulfillment of all that the prophets who had come before him had proclaimed. He announced the coming of the Savior who would deliver sinners, one and all, from death and condemnation. Today John's message still reminds us that God kept his promise and always will. The Savior has come. Forgiveness, life, and salvation are ours through faith in him.