

Because our Advent Lord is coming...

*May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other
and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 1 Thessalonians 3:12*




First Sunday in Advent - Mission Festival December 1 / 2 2018

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 A. Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com
507-225-0158 Cell

Pastor Rob J. 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.

Prayer before worship: Gracious Father in heaven, who promised long ago through the prophets the coming of a Savior, you have now fulfilled what you foretold. The Messiah accomplished our salvation by his perfect life and innocent death. Through his resurrection we are certain that our sins are forgiven. By his ascension we know that heaven is ours. And now we await his glorious return. Until that day strengthen our faith through your Word and sacraments, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Order of Service: *Service of Word and Sacrament* page 26

ANTHEM

Lift Up Your Heads

11 am

*Refrain: Lift up your heads, lift up your heads, lift up your heads, O you gates,
Be lifted up, be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in., Refrain
Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty.
Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, strong and mighty.
Who is this King of glory? The Lord mighty in battle.
Who is this King of glory? The Lord mighty in battle, in battle. Refrain
Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord, the Lord almighty.
Who is he, this King of glory? He is the King of glory, King of glory. Refrain, Refrain*

OPENING HYMN

Hosanna to the Coming Lord

CW 21

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

9:30 and 11 am

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.
Rule in all; hope of all. Come, expected Jesus. Come.*

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 19:15-17, 23-29

With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished." When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely

out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"

By the time Lot reached Zoar,

the sun had risen over the land. Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah-- from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities-- and also the vegetation in the land. But Lot's wife looked back, and she

became a pillar of salt. Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah,	toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered	Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.
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PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 25

Insert



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.

Choir: Refrain

Cong: Refrain

*Choir: Lord, make me know Your ways, teach me your paths,
and keep me in the way of Your truth, for You are God, my Savior.*

Cong: Refrain

*Choir: For the Lord is good and righteous,
revealing His way to those who seek Him, gently leading the poor and the humble.*

Cong: Refrain

*Choir: To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to His Word,
who live His love, He will always be near, He will show them His mercy.*

Cong: Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking	in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as	ours does for you. May 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.
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GENERAL VERSE

p. 30

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and	tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies	will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these
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<p>things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of</p>	<p>God is near. "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you</p>	<p>unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."</p>
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HYMN of the DAY	<i>The King Shall Come</i>	CW25
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SERMON	Because Our Advent Lord is Coming	1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
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NICENE CREED		p. 31
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OFFERING

PRAYERS and LORD'S PRAYER		p. 32
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THE SACRAMENT		p. 33
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To our worship guests seeking an altar at which to commune: Since the Lord's Supper is an expression of outward unity in the faith as well as inner union with Christ, we ask that those who are not communicant members of our fellowship please schedule a meeting with the pastor before coming to the Lord's Table. We ask this in loving obedience to the Scriptures and not in judgment of anyone's faith, sincerity, or standing before God.

DISTRIBUTION	<i>Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending</i>	CW29
HYMNS	<i>Rise, Shine, You People</i>	CW556

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PREACHER	Mission Speaker, Pastor Paul Prange
ORGANIST	Jeneane Thiesfeldt
CANTORS	David Wendland
	Kathy Wurster
MIXED CHOIR	Bethel Boeder
CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Gr. 1-4)	Jean Schroeder

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Questions Christians Ask
	11 am	Gr. 1-4 sing
	4 pm	MLC Christmas Concert
Mon	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Tue	6:30 pm	Education Meeting
	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Wed	4 and 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Service
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7:30 pm	Mixed Choir
Thu	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: James
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: 1 Kings
Fri	6:30 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God"
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Proverbs
Sat	9 am	Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal

† **Upcoming Services** †

Wednesday: 4 and 6:30 pm

Saturday: 7 pm

Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 9	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Questions Christians Ask
	11 am	Jr. Choir sings
Dec 10	7 pm	Evangelism Meeting
Dec 11	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6 pm	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
Dec 12	4 and 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Service
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7:30 pm	Mixed Choir
Dec 13	10:30 am	Last Adult Bible Class: James
	7 pm	Last Adult Bible Class: 1 Kings
Dec 14	6:30 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God"
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Proverbs
Dec 15	9 am	Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal
	1 pm	Youth Group: Christmas Caroling / Pizza Ranch Supper
Dec 18	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Dec 19	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
	4 and 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Service
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7:30 pm	Mixed Choir
Dec 20	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
Dec 21	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
Dec 22	9 am	Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal

ST. JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 436.

Fruits of faith given:

\$21,921	Home Operations ~ \$14,532 is our weekly need		
\$922	MVL ~ \$1,118 is our weekly need	\$100	Audio/Video Equipment
\$2,377	Missions ~ \$1,648 is our weekly need	\$20	Youth Group
\$2,248	Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need	\$20	Memorials

2019 Contribution Envelopes ~ The 2019 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 2019 envelopes until January 1st. Also, do not use 2018 envelopes after December 31st - please dispose of them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank You! ~ Thank you to all the youth who hosted the Christmas for Kids event on Saturday. It was a fun event!

Christmas Decorating ~ will take place on Saturday, December 8th beginning at 10 am. Anyone who would like to help is welcome!

Youth Group ~ The Youth Group will be caroling at local nursing homes and assisted living centers on Saturday, December 15 beginning at 1 pm. We'll meet at the church and caravan together. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Parents, if you can drive, you can also sign up on the sheet or contact Lisa Goeglein at ali3b2g@gmail.com or 507-217-7117.



Women of St. John's ~ All St. John's Women are invited to our annual Christmas party at 7 pm on Tuesday December 4, in the church's basement fellowship room. Enjoy an evening of Christian fellowship along with the fun of a "White Elephant" exchange. Share with all of us one of your family's favorite recipes at Christmas time. Christmas carols and a devotion will enhance our evening. We hope you are able to join us!

Greeting Cards ~ There are greetings cards for sale in the new narthex. The prices are listed near the payment box. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Christmas cards won't be available this year.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

MLC Christmas Concert ~ Martin Luther College's annual Christmas Concert will be presented this Sunday, December 2, 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 "Peace Eternal Making," offers a highly eclectic blend of music for choir, instruments, and congregation, while centering around the timeless message of the peace and salvation that Christ brings to the earth. 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!

Invitation ~ Please join the women of Trinity Lutheran Church in Nicollet, MN for "*An Evening with Isaiah*". We will have Social hour with desserts from 5-6 pm with the program starting at 6 pm. The deadline to sign up has been extended to Monday, December 3rd. Please call the church office at 232-3938 ext. 0 and leave a message or email office@trinitynicollet.org. We hope to see you!

Christmas for Families ~ will be held on December 15th at St. Paul's Church. All parents and children are welcome to come anytime between 9 - 11:30 am. We hope you are able to join us for crafts, snacks, singing, games and celebrating the birth of Jesus! Please register online at splnewulm.org or pick up a form in the narthex. Contact Staff Minister Kris Kuschel at kkuschel@splnewulm.org for more information or if you are interested in helping.

The Southwest Area Lutheran Chorale ~ invites you to participate in their 2019 season. Our first rehearsal is scheduled for Sunday, January 13th at St. John in Redwood Falls from 2 - 5 pm. Our concerts will be held on Sunday, April 7th, at St. John's, Fairfax at 2 pm and St. Paul's, in St. James at 7 pm. A complete schedule will be distributed at our first rehearsal. You can also learn more by contacting our Organizational Committee: Jim Renz 507-327-7222 (director), Linette Scharlemann 507-227-2161 (director), and Pastor Scott Muske 507-426-7007 (pastoral advisor). New members are always welcome!

Job Opening ~ If you are looking for part time employment, Jesus Loves Me Learning Center, North Mankato, has openings for teacher aides in the afternoon from about 2:30 - 4:30 pm in our Christian center. Competitive wages, hours depending upon availability – please email at lingilm@hickorytech.net or call 507-345-7707 or 507-508-2041.

MVL #GivingTuesday Match ~ MVL's #GivingTuesday was a day to remember! Our goal of \$10,000 was well exceeded, meaning MVL will receive an additional \$10,000 from Thrivent Financial. This outpouring of gifts is overwhelming and humbling. On this day and always, thank you for supporting MVL in our mission to train students for Christian lives.

Changes in Our Upcoming Services

Midweek Advent Services will be:
Wednesday, December 5, 12 and 19
at 4:00 and 6:30 pm

Beginning Saturday, January 5, 2019
the Saturday service will begin
at 6:30 pm

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 ~ The first candle of Advent is lit. It signifies that the darkness of sin which once covered the world because of Adam's fall is now being expelled. With the hope that the Advent season brings we look to the coming of Christ, both as the baby who humbly came into this world as the Redeemer, and also as the exalted Lord of heaven who will return in glory. Our mission is to proclaim his saving work in this sin-darkened world both to those who believe and also to those who do not, so that they too may believe.