

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

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.
—James 5:7-8



Third Sunday in Advent
December 14/15, 2019

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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

Worship Notes

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14/15, 2019

Prayer before worship: Heavenly Father, at times it can be so difficult to be patient and wait for your deliverance. Forgive us for the times that in our impatience we have sinned against you and against others. Thank you for being so patient with us. Thank you for sending Jesus at his first advent to remove our guilt and sin. Now, help us to wait patiently for your final advent. Move us to serve you faithfully in thanks for all you've done and promised while we wait for you to bring us to glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Order of Service: *Common Service* with Communion page 15

OPENING HYMN

O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are

CW27

PRAYER of the DAY

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Matthew Armstrong

8 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 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 all sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.
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.*

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FIRST LESSON

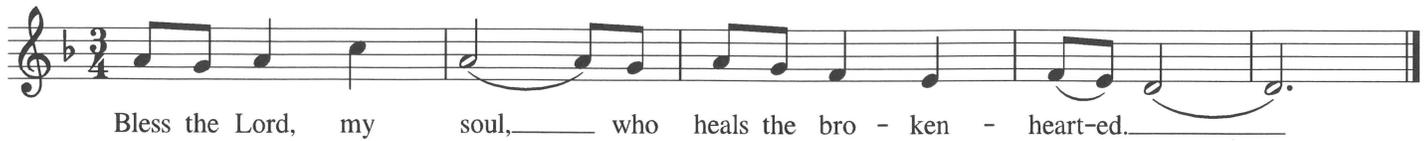
Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance;

with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of

Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Refrain:



Refrain *Choir*

Refrain **Congregation**

*For all my life I will sing to you, O ever faithful God.
You fill the heavens with wondrous lights, the earth sings out your glory.*

Refrain **Congregation**

*Put not your trust in those who rule, the mighty of this earth.
Their breath shall fail, their power die, their plans shall fade and vanish.*

Refrain **Congregation**

*You give your sight to all the blind, you raise up those bent low.
Your heart is near to the broken ones, you welcome in the stranger.*

Refrain **Congregation**

*Happy those who keep faith with you, securing justice for the oppressed,
Who give your food to each hungry heart, your freedom to each captive.*

Refrain **Congregation**

*The weak and poor you sustain in love, the wicked ones you bring to destruction;
Forevermore shall your reign endure, to ev'ry generation.*

Refrain **Congregation**

SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-11

<p>Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's</p>	<p>coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name</p>	<p>of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.</p>
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VERSE of the DAY

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.
- Matthew 11:10

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

NICENE CREED

p. 18

HYMN of the DAY

Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes

CW9

SERMON

James 5:7-11

Practice Prophetic Patience

OFFERING

PRAYERS and LORD'S PRAYER

p. 20

THE SACRAMENT

p. 21

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 one of the pastors 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

If God Himself Be for Me

CW419

HYMNS

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

CW309

† † †

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee

ORGANIST

Craig Hirschmann

MIXED CHOIR

Bethel Boeder

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	9:30 am	Mission Trip Presentation/Sunday School and Bible Class: Q&A
	1 pm	Youth Group: Decorate Gingerbread Houses
Tue	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wed	11 am	Midweek Advent Service
	4 pm	Midweek Advent Service
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	5:30 pm	Public Catechism
	6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Service
	7:15 pm	Mixed Choir
Thu	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
	10 am	MLC Midyear Graduation
	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Fri	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God Part 2"
	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
	7 pm	MVL Christmas Concert
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 22	9:30 am	Sunday School (NO Bible Class)
	11 am	Sunday School Christmas Service
Dec 23	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
Dec 24	4 pm	St. Paul's School Christmas Service
	7 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec 25	9 am	Christmas Day Service
Dec 26		Church office closed
Dec 31	7 pm	New Year's Eve Service
	8 pm	Kelly Emde Retirement Celebration
Jan 1, 2020		Church office closed
Jan 6	10:30 am	Stewardship Meeting
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Jan 7	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6:30 pm	Education Meeting
Jan 8	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
Jan 9	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class

ST. JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 677.

Fruits of faith given:

\$14,751	Home Operations ~ \$47,158 is our weekly need		
\$1,132	MVL ~ \$3,528 is our weekly need	\$1,000	Wish List: Organ Memory
\$1,972	Missions ~ \$3,248 is our weekly need	\$314	Food & Fellowship
\$1,351	Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need	\$125	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$100	Benevolence Fund	\$50	Audio/Video Equipment
\$37	Lutheran Charities	\$25	K-12 Education Assistance
\$25	Endowment Fund		

St. John's Coffee Mugs ~ Newly ordered St. John's coffee mugs are used by our prospective member visitation team as a gift to help our new friends remember our local congregation. Perhaps you wish you had your own St. John's mug to help you remember to pray for our ministry during your morning java. Your wish has been granted! Stop by the display table in the narthex to pick up one of these stylish mugs for only \$5.00 each! Just leave your payment - cash or check to St John's - in the box provided. Consider them also for an easy Christmas gift!

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! This Sunday, December 15, we're going to decorate Gingerbread Houses from 1-3 pm. 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 18 in addition to the 4 and 6:30 pm services.

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!

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, Chargaliers, 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 One Act Play ~ MLC Forum presents: *Off the Beaten Path* this Sunday, 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! JLMLC 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.

Our Upcoming Christmas Season

Midweek Advent Services:

Wednesday, December 18
at 11:00 am, 4:00 and 6:30 pm

Sunday School Christmas Service:

Sunday, December 22
at 11:00 am

Christmas Eve:

Tuesday, December 24
4:00 pm St. Paul's School Christmas Service
7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day:

Wednesday, December 25
at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve Service:

Tuesday, December 31
at 7:00 pm

About the Cover ~ Farmers are patient. They have to be. No crop springs up overnight. The apostle James encourages to be like the farmer as we wait for the Lord's final advent and be patient. We will face problems, persecution, and pain while we wait. But because we know what the Lord has done for us and what he's promised to do, we can be patient in spite of it all.