



Third Sunday in Advent: December 15 / 16, 2018

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street
New Ulm, MN

www.stjohnsnewulm.com

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

Email: stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com
 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
507-354-6744

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.

Worship Notes
Third Sunday in Advent
December 15/16, 2018

Prayer before worship: Dear Lord, we are often lax in our spiritual lives by not hearing and reading your Word, and by not taking the time to pray. But we not only seek your forgiveness and mercy, we also ask for the strength and great desire to serve you with our lives. Therefore grant us the joy of your salvation and move our hearts by your Holy Spirit to serve you with our all and our best. We ask that you would never allow your Word to be taken from us. Instead cause us to grow in our faith through the gospel so that we would never become apathetic toward it. Teach always to study it with zeal and hope. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

OPENING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People

CW14

FIRST LESSON

Nehemiah 8:9-18

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve." Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because

they now understood the words that had been made known to them. On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to give attention to the words of the Law. They found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live in booths during the feast of the seventh month and that they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem: "Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make booths"-- as it is written. So the people went out

and brought back branches and built themselves booths on their own roofs, in their courtyards, in the courts of the house of God and in the square by the Water Gate and the one by the Gate of Ephraim. The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great. Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be

anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For 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." "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered,

"The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely-- be content with your pay." The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the

Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

NICENE CREED

p. 18

HYMN of the DAY

We Have a Sure Prophetic Word

CW291

In Suffering Rejoice

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 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

The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

CW288

HYMNS

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

CW309

† † †

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

ORGANIST

Adrian Smith

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Tue	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Wed	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
Thu	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
	6:45 pm	MVL Christmas Concert
Fri	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God"
	8 am	St. Paul's School Christmas Rehearsal
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 23	11 am	Sunday School Christmas Service
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
Jan 4	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
	4:30 pm	St. John's Night at MVL
Jan 8	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Jan 9	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7 pm	Mixed Choir
Jan 10	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Jan 11	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
Jan 13	9:30 am	Sunday School and Adult Bible Class: "Angels and Demons"
Jan 15	7 pm	Council Meeting
Jan 16	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7 pm	Mixed Choir
Jan 17	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Jan 18	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class

ST. JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 621.

Fruits of faith given:

\$28,575	Home Operations ~ \$14,532 is our weekly need		
\$828	MVL ~ \$2,520 is our weekly need	\$635	Hmong Outreach in Vietnam
\$4,030	Missions ~ \$1,648 is our weekly need	\$236	Food & Fellowship
\$2,016	Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need	\$75	Lutheran Charities

Thank You! ~ Thank you to Pam Heidtke for making the new paraments and stoles for the pastors. Her time and talents are much appreciated.

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.

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

St. Paul's Lutheran School Band Concert ~ The Raider Bands will present a Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 18, at 7 pm in the school gymnasium. All families are welcome to come and support the band program while enjoying both sacred and secular music for the holiday season!

MVL Christmas Concert ~ You're invited to MVL on Thursday, December 20 for our Christmas concert! The Freshmen Choir, A Capella Choir, Chargaliers, and Symphonic Band have been 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. For those unable to attend, we hope to livestream the concert on our Facebook page (facebook.com/mvlhs).

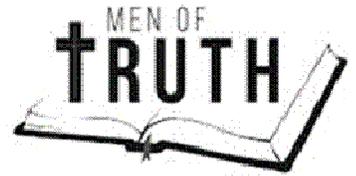
The Southwest Area Lutheran Chorale ~ invites you to participate in their 2019 season. Our first rehearsal is scheduled for Sunday, January 13th at St. John in Redwood Falls from 2 - 5 pm. Our concerts will be held on Sunday, April 7th, at St. John's, Fairfax at 2 pm and St. Paul's, in St. James at 7 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!

St. Paul's Lutheran School PreK Open House ~ for 3 & 4 year old is Monday, January 14 from 2 - 6 pm. Visit school, let your child "try out" the room and talk to Mrs. Meyer about the Pre-K program! Contact Heidi Meyer, Pre-K Director, at 507-354-2329 with questions. Members of St. John's and St. Paul's are welcome to register early, January 1-14. (Public registration begins Jan 15).

Men of Truth ~ WHAT'S IT MEAN TO BE A "MAN OF GOD"?

Husbands, fathers, and young men, join us for the 4th Annual Men of Truth Conference as we are encouraged from Scripture on what it means to be a "man of God" on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at Martin Luther College.

www.menoftruth.org



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.

Our Upcoming Christmas Season

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 19
at 4:00 and 6:30 pm

Sunday School Christmas Service

Sunday, December 23
at 11:00 am

Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25
at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve Service

Monday, December 31
at 7:00 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
jdrretske@splnewulm.org
lbalza@splnewulm.org
kgrunwald@splnewulm.org
jschroeder@splnewulm.org
stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

About the Cover ~ Nehemiah was a Jew, but became the cupbearer to the Artaxerxes, the powerful king of Persia. Nehemiah made a request to the king that the Jews who were living in Persia at the time, might return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city wall. Although Nehemiah received the king's consent, he and his fellow Israelites met with great opposition from their enemies who were envious at what the Jews were doing. As the Jews rebuilt the wall, the workers had to do the work with one hand, while holding a weapon in the other, as seen depicted on the bulletin cover. However, the wall was completed under God's protection, and it was dedicated in a worship service where the priests and scribes read the book of the Law of the LORD to the Israelites. They also found that they were supposed to celebrate the Succoth, the Festival of Booths, which they did in accord with God's command. God's Word brought them great comfort and joy, plus the motivation to serve and obey him. So it shall be with us as we hear, read, and study God's Word.