

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



**First Sunday in Advent**  
**November 30/December 1, 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**  
***First Sunday in Advent***  
**November 30/December 1, 2019**

**Prayer before worship:** Dear Jesus, forgive us for the times we've been unprepared for your return, too focused on the things of this life to prepare for the life to come. Thank you for your first advent in the manger, for taking on human flesh to become the sacrifice to pay for these and all of our sins. Thank you for your advent to us today in the Word and in the Sacraments, which keep us prepared for your final advent when you come again to judge the living and the dead. Help us to keep watch and stay ready for that great and glorious day! In your name we pray. Amen.

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

**BAPTISMAL HYMN**      *All Who Believe and Are Baptized*      **CW299**

Saturday

**OPENING HYMN**      *Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending*      **CWS704**

Sunday

**FIRST LESSON**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to 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." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He 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. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

**PSALM of the DAY**

**Psalm 18**

**CW p. 69**

**SECOND LESSON**

**Romans 13:11-14**

And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over;

the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual

immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

**GENERAL VERSE**

p. 30

## GOSPEL

Matthew 24:37-44

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.

That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the

owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

## HYMN of the DAY

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

CW2

## SERMON

Matthew 24:37-44

### Prepared for Advent

1. A Past Example
2. A Present Reality
3. A Future Glory

## NICENE CREED

p. 31

## OFFERING

## PRAYERS and LORD'S PRAYER

p. 32

## THE SACRAMENT

p. 33

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

*Hosanna to the Coming Lord*

CW21

## HYMNS

*Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See*

CW219

† † †

## PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

## PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee

## ORGANIST

Darrell Berg

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Mon	10:30 am	Stewardship Meeting
	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Tue	6:30 pm	Education Meeting
	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Wed	<b>11 am</b>	<b>Midweek Advent Service</b>
	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Midweek Advent Service</b>
	4 pm	Gr. 1-4 sing
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Midweek Advent Service</b>
	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7:15 pm	Mixed Choir
Thu	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: 2 Kings
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: Colossians
Fri	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God Part 2"
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Ecclesiastes
	4:30 pm	Youth Group: Decorate for Christmas for Kids
	6:30 pm	Church Decorating
Sat	9 am	Christmas for Kids

### † 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 8	8 am	Jr. Choir sings
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Questions and Answers
	4 pm	MLC Christmas Concert
Dec 9	7 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Trustees Meeting
Dec 10	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	6 pm	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
Dec 11	<b>11 am</b>	<b>Midweek Advent Service</b>
	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Midweek Advent Service</b>
	4:45 - 6 pm	Fellowship Supper
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Midweek Advent Service</b>
	6:30 pm	Public Catechism
	7:15 pm	Mixed Choir
Dec 12	10:30 am	Adult Bible Class: 2 Kings
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class: Colossians
	7 pm	St. Paul's School Band Concert
Dec 13	6:30 am	Breakfast Bible Study, Perkins: "On Giving Advice to God Part 2"
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Ecclesiastes

## **ST. JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Attendance** for the past weekend was 635.

Fruits of faith given:

\$21,544	Home Operations ~ \$26,173 is our weekly need		
\$883	MVL ~ \$2,010 is our weekly need	\$275	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$2,029	Missions ~ \$2,302 is our weekly need	\$100	Audio/Video Equipment
\$2,554	Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need	\$100	Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund
\$56	Food & Fellowship	\$20	Lutheran Chapel Service
\$25	K-12 Education Assistance	\$10	WELS Christian Aid & Relief

**Joined in Marriage** ~ Joined in the bonds of marriage are Kim Smith and Elver Niebuhr at St. John's, New Ulm on Saturday, November 30. We pray for God's blessings on this couple as they begin their new lives together, and ask that God would grant them joy and contentment as husband and wife. May they build this relationship on the foundation of Christ all their days.

**Made a Child of God** ~ through holy baptism this weekend is Aaron Andrew Wagner, son of former members Andrew and Amy Wagner. We pray that Aaron will remain a child of God all his days until we shall be together in heaven by God's grace bestowed on us in this blessed sacrament.

**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.

**Women of St. John's Meeting** ~ will be on Tuesday, December 3 at 7 pm in the church basement. All women are invited to enjoy Christian fellowship at our yearly Christmas gathering. We will enjoy some fun conversation about your favorite Christmas ever, receive a wonderful surprise in your white elephant gift, sing some Christmas carols, and enjoy some festive treats. This is an enjoyable evening, so bring along a friend. Each attendee is asked to bring a white elephant gift to share--nothing new--just wrapped and ready to be reused.

**Church Decorating** ~ We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday, December 6th, beginning at 6:30 pm. Many hands make light work. Anyone who would like to help is welcome!

**Christmas for Kids** ~ The Christmas for Kids event will be on Saturday, December 7th from 9 am until 11:30 am. This is for children who are 4-years-old through Grades 5. Please sign-up online at: [stjohnsnewulm.com/news](http://stjohnsnewulm.com/news) or our church Facebook page. There are registration cards in the narthex if you don't have internet access.



**Youth Group** ~ Please come to the church this Friday, December 6, beginning at 4:30 pm to decorate the church. On Saturday, December 7, the fun begins at 8 am with donuts and juice. **Please sign up on the board in the narthex for which area you would like to help.** Stay for cleanup and a pizza party. On Sunday, December 15, we're going to decorate Gingerbread Houses from 1-3 pm. Contact Lisa Goeglein at [ali3b2g@gmail.com](mailto:ali3b2g@gmail.com) or 507-217-7117 with questions.

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

**2019 Mission Trips** ~ St. John's Board of Education would like to invite the youth who attended a mission trip in the summer of 2019 to give a brief summary of the experience. The presentation will be at the beginning of a Sunday morning Bible class. Please go to [bit.ly/2019MTPresentation](http://bit.ly/2019MTPresentation) to let us know which Sunday works best for you.

**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!

**Parade of Lights** ~ Members of St. John's and St. Paul's are invited to walk together on Nov. 29th at 6 pm in New Ulm's Parade of Lights! We will hand out hot chocolate packets and information regarding both holiday worship schedules and upcoming John and Paul Ministries events. If you are interested in helping with the float please contact Beth Scharf ([scharfbm@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:scharfbm@mlc-wels.edu)). To walk in the parade sign-up at [johnandpaulministries.com](http://johnandpaulministries.com). 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** ~ *Giving Tuesday* Mark your calendar now for Tuesday, December 3 for a special day of partnering with MVL! On Giving Tuesday, all donations to MVL will help complete the funding story for our students through the Partnership Fund. A few MVL supporters with a desire to inspire others have created a \$7,500 matching pool just for this day! Stay tuned to [mvl.org](http://mvl.org) and [facebook.com/mvlhs](https://www.facebook.com/mvlhs) for more details. *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 7:00 pm in the MVL gymnasium on Friday, December 20. All are invited!

**Advent by Candlelight** ~ Invite your family members, friends and neighbors for a Christ-centered preparation for women this holiday season. Sunday, December 1st - 5 pm- Registration, 5:30 - prayer & dessert, 6 pm - program at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 304 Monroe Ave., N. Mankato. There is no charge for this event. To sign up call 507-345-7049 or [secretary@stpaulsnorthmankato.com](mailto:secretary@stpaulsnorthmankato.com). Questions: contact Darlene Archard at 507-278-4978.

**Live Nativity** ~ will be at Trinity, Nicollet from 6:30-7:30 pm on Friday, December 6.

**MLC Christmas Concerts** ~ Martin Luther College's highly anticipated Christmas Concert will be presented Saturday, December 7, at 7:30 pm and 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](http://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](mailto:directorjlm@stpaulsnorthmankato.com) for more information or call 507-508-2041.

**About the Cover** ~ The image on the cover is a painting by John Fulleylove (1845-1908), painted in 1902 entitled, "Jerusalem." Fulleylove depicts two women grinding with a hand mill, a reference to Matthew 24:41. One woman is prepared for Christ's return, the other is not and will not receive a favorable judgment. Thank God that he has made us ready for Christ's second advent (coming) through his first. By Jesus' perfect life and innocent death, our sin is removed. We are prepared for advent. May we keep watch and stay ready for that great and glorious day of Jesus final advent!