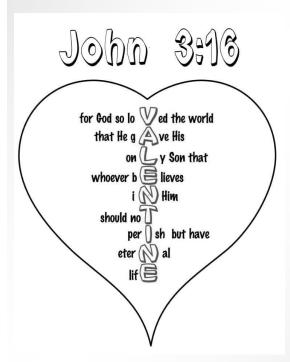


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February 2025 Glory and Dishonor & Extreme Salvation

Luke 9:28-36 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³²Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters-- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) 4While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." "When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

As we walk with the Gospel writers through the Church Year, before leaving Epiphany behind and setting foot on the Lenten road, we come to the Mount of Transfiguration. It is really the event which bridges the two events together and gives us the full picture of Christ's mission.

In the Epiphany of our Lord, Jesus was made manifest as the Savior of the whole world. He had come to redeem all people, both Jews and Gentiles, by living in their place and by dying on the cross for their sins. A star directed the way of the wise men who sought him. The glorious promise of peace and reconciliation with God was now fulfilled before the eyes of the world in the person of Jesus Christ. But it was glory hidden in a little baby born under very humble circumstances.

In Lent we see the passion of the Christ, that is, the suffering, mockery, and death of our Lord. We see the curse of sin laid upon the righteous Son of God who had become a curse for us by bearing our guilt on the cross.

The Lenten road which ends at the tomb, where the seemingly unmovable stone is placed in our path at the mouth of the sepulcher. However, ultimately it becomes the road to joy as the angel moves the stone out of our way in order to allow to see that the Christ is no longer there, for he is risen.

From glory to dishonor, and from humility to exaltation... The strange and mysterious work of Jesus Christ goes from one extreme to another.

So it is with the Transfiguration of our Lord. There, on the otherwise unknown mount, Jesus takes three of his apostles and is transfigured before them. His garments shine like lightning and his face gleams as the sun. And this only about six to eight days after Jesus has told his followers that he is going to Jerusalem in order to be crucified.

Jesus had to make his way to the cross in order to die for our sins or we would have been lost eternally in hell. Jesus had to be crucified so that with his blood he could pay our debt to God and take away our guilt.

To sinners who, due to our sinful nature, fail to understand the extreme work of salvation, Jesus manifests his glory. He is transfigured before our eyes in order to remind us that his Epiphany really does not end with Lent. He is still the Lord of lords and the King of kings. He is not Elijah, as some suspected, but he appears with Elijah and Moses, men of God, to show that his message is one and the same with theirs. Although disguised in human flesh, he is still God. He has come to accomplish the mission for which God sent him.

The Bible says, Jesus, Moses, and Elijah spoke about Jesus = departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. The Greek word for departure is exodus, literally, the Aroad out. Jesus would indeed leave this world in death, but would return again, alive and glorified. His exodus would also be an exodus for us, for he would lead us out of the slavery of sin, just as Moses led the exodus of Israel out of Egypt.

Therefore, as we leave the Mount of Transfiguration and set foot on the Lenten path which leads to pain, sorrow, suffering and death for our Lord, we can also know that, just as the Israelites finally reached the land of promise, even so, the fulfillment of a much greater promise awaits us. We can leave the Mount and enter the valley with the vision of the glorified Christ. We can know that even as he hangs on the cross and cries out in the agony of hell itself, he is still God. We can be certain that even as he is placed in the tomb, it is not the end. He shall rise, and the glory hidden in human flesh will once again shine forth in even greater measure than at the Transfiguration. What is more, the mountain top experience with our Lord is for us the down payment, so to speak, which secures the promise that the rest is coming. We have the deposit guaranteeing the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, and life everlasting.

At the zenith of the Epiphany is the Transfiguration. But from the Mount we go down to the valley in order to enter Lent. From one extreme to another we walk with Christ. But we can be also be sure that the pains and sorrows of this life will eventually be replaced by something much better. From one extreme to another we walk with Christ, until from sin, death, and sorrow, which shall enter into peace, joy, and life forever in heaven.

In Christ, Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee

January Sermon Texts

February 9	Romans 10:12-17	Beautiful Feet
February 16	2 Corinthians 12:7-10	Boast in Your Weakness
February 23	Luke 6:27	In Christ There is Forgiveness
March 2	Luke 9:28-36	Remember the View

Bible Class meets in the Church Basement The class can also be found online at bit.ly/SJBibleClass

Sundays at 9:30 am	Psalms	Pastor Jeff Bovee
Thursdays at 10 am	Proverbs	Pastor Jeff Bovee
Thursdays at 7 pm	Vices and Virtues	Pastor Rob Guenther
Fridays at 9:30 am	Vices and Virtues	Pastor Rob Guenther

Lutheran Schools Week 2025

Sunday,

Grades Preschool-8 Sing - 9:30am service at. St. Paul's and St. John's

Monday, Feb. 10 VIP Day - Chapel at 8:15am, school tour, entertainment by Pete Bloedel Dress Up - Jersey Day Bowling - Grades 5-8

Tuesday, Feb. 11 Parent Lunch - Last names A-L from II-II:45am, Last Names M-Z - II:45-12:30pm Chapel at 8:15am Dress Up - Twins/Triplets Day NU Rec Center - Grades 3/4 Movie Day

Wednesday, Chapel at 8:15am
Feb. 12

Press Up - Comfi

Jump Rope for Heart Crew Event Chapel at 8:15am Dress Up - Comfy Day NU Rec Center - Grades 1/2

Thursday, Feb. 13 Friday-Sunday - MLC Basketall Tournament - Grades 7/8 Basketball Teams - GO RAIDERS!!

> LSW Cost - Grades K-4 \$5, Grades 5-8 \$11 Max Cost/Family is for the 3 oldest kids Contact the office for financial assistance

Cards of Caring-

Members of St. John's are invited to help make the cards our congregation sends to home-bound members and others during the year. We use donated, recycled, and created cards. There are many ways you can help such as writing, using stamps and putting the cards together. We produce cards for birthdays, get-well, anniversaries, sympathy, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines, Easter, Confirmation, and Thinking of your occasions.

Please join us at 403 N. Minnesota St. between 9 am to noon on Saturday March 15, 2025. About 80 Cards are needed for each event. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our members.

For further information contact Lois Willems at (507) – 676 - 1230



LWMS Rally

All are invited to attend the LWMS rally on April 5 at Friedens Lutheran Church in New Prague, MN. The rally begins with a coffee fellowship at 8:00AM, and the speaker of the day is Pastor Larry Schlomer- World Mission board Chairman. Please RSVP to Carrie Schaefer <u>carriehieb@yahoo.com</u>.



Host families needed

Martin Luther College is excited to host the WELS National Band Fest on March 7-9, 2025! The festival band is made up of band students from our WELS high schools across the nation. We are seeking welcoming local families to house those who are traveling distances to be here. Please contact Beth Scharf at events@mlc-wels.edu if you are willing to host or scan the QR code to complete the hosting form. Thank you!

4 St. John's Lutheran Church

Church Librarian

February greetings to you all. May love fill your month. Our three books this month touch on love from God, and love for self.

Our first book is for teenagers mostly. Rev. Phil Huebner works with teenagers so he understands them, He wants them to use facts not feelings to know who they are. The book is titled "Who Am I?" As a child of God you are loved, innocent, strong, connected, and at peace. Set you mind on things above, teen.

"Galatians" is a devotional on the New Testament book, by Roy Hefti, a retired pastor. What is the main teaching of the Bible? It is justification by faith in Christ alone, Rev. Hefti studies the book of Galatians in 13 sections. The Apostle Paul was dealing with Jews who wanted the new Gentile believers to be circumcised before they could be saved. They were discrediting the Resurrection. Jesus' death and resurrection are the basis for faith.

Karen Kingsbury started a fiction series called "Angels Walking". We have book One but it can stand alone. It features angels helping humans, secretly of course. A minor league baseball pitcher blows out his arm while pitching his best game. Now what can he do? The 2 angels on his case work a few miracles on his behalf to get his life back on track and his girl back. An Alzheimer patient is a surprise blessing.

These 3 new books will be on the wheeled cart in the church library area. Have a loving month, knowing God loves you always.

LeiLani Rahn, church librarian

St. Paul's School

Lent Preparation: A Journey to the Cross

Do you think the joy and celebration of Christmas may be behind us? Are you ready to restart your connection to Christ as February moves into March? God wants to connect with you. No matter how often you attend church, he wants you to find him in his Word.

Starting March 5, Lent offers us a fresh opportunity to connect with our Savior and reflect on His incredible love. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and leading all the way to Easter, this season invites us to focus on the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross. This is another opportunity to experience the Savior and his love for us.

Lent is a time to step back from the busyness of life and recenter our hearts on what truly matters. Worship during this season helps us hear again the powerful story of God's love—a love that walked the path to the cross for our salvation. Each service, starting with Ash Wednesday, prepares us for the joyous celebration of Easter, where we rejoice in the victory of Christ's resurrection. We encourage you to prioritize worship during this meaningful season and all year, but honestly, this is God's encouragement. Whether you attend midweek Lenten services, join Sunday worship, or set aside quiet moments for personal reflection, gathering around God's Word reminds us of His promises and deepens our faith.

Lent isn't about perfection or doing everything right. It's about letting God's love draw you closer to Him, week by week, as we journey together to the cross and the empty tomb. Let's walk this road as a church family, growing in faith and celebrating our incredible hope in Jesus. See you in Church!

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Ella Wurster

Q: What made you decide to become a teacher?

E: I have always known that I wanted to be a teacher. I grew up constantly being on campus, and all my babysitters were MLC students. I was blessed to be surrounded by the MLC family from a very young age. I think that played a major role in my decision to be a teacher. Secondly, I have had so many amazing role models. From babysitters to my own teachers, I grew up with so many teacher role models. My decision to be a teacher was pretty much finalized when I was in 3rd and 4th grade. I was blessed to have Mrs. Balza for both of those years, and she made a huge impact on my life.

Q: How many years of school do you have left?

E: I am currently a first-year student at MLC in a 5year program, so I have four more years of school.

Q: What class do you enjoy the most?

E: The classes that I enjoy the most are Wind Symphony, Chorale, and Aural Skills.

Q: What class do you find the most challenging?

E: A class that I find incredibly challenging is Music Theory.

Q: Do you have a job while you're in school? If so, what do you do? How do you balance work and studies?

E: I have 3 part-time jobs right now. My main job is working as a shift manager at McDonald's. I am also a teacher at the New Ulm Suzuki School of Music, where I am one of the teachers for a note-reading class. I also occasionally help out with the Allegro Strings group. My newest job is babysitting at the Wellness Collective. I help out 2-3 times a month, on Saturday mornings, doing childcare during a yoga class.

Having a very busy schedule makes working hard sometimes. My job at McDonald's is very flexible, and I am able to choose my work schedule basically. For Suzuki, I teach note-reading every couple of weeks because I am one of three teachers, and otherwise, I help out where needed. I am very grateful that I am able to base my work schedule on my school schedule.

Q: What are your hobbies when you're not in class or studying (or at work)?

E: My hobbies outside of class and work are practicing (I play three instruments and am a music major, so there is A LOT of practicing going on!), volunteering to help out with events at church, reading (when I have the time), and hanging out with my friends!

Q: Anything else you'd like to say to the St. John's members who support you?

E: I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for the endless support you give us MLC students! God's blessings!



ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH NEW ULM, MN 56073

FEBRUARY 2025 354-6744

SUNDAY	MONDAY		WEDNESDAY	THURSI	DAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Correspondence Pastor Jeffrey Bovee Pastor Rob Guenther Staff Minister Jim Dre Church Office Mike Thom	etske sm.dretsk offic	revbovee@gmail. orguenther@gmail. e@stjohnsnewulm. e@stjohnsnewulm. r@stjohnsnewulm.	.com .com .com		T.V. Ser Mondays Tuesdays Thursdays on Comcast Ch Nuvera Ch	s: 6 pm s: 1 pm s: 10 am aannel 14	Worship 6:30 pm W/ Communion
2 Epiphany4 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM W/ COMMUNION 9:30 am Bible Class	3 6:30 pm Elders Meeting	7 pm Women of St. John's	3:30 pm Public & Homeschool Catechism 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 7 pm Choir	ı	Bible Class Bible Class	7 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	8 Worship 6:30 pm
9 Epiphany 5 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 9:30 am Bible Class 5:30 pm Youth Group	10 11:30 am OWLS Meeting 6 pm Evangelism	11:30 am Stewardship Meeting 6 pm Sunday School Meeting	12 3:30 pm Public & Homeschool Catechism 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 7 pm Choir		Bible Class	14	Worship 6:30 PM W/ Communion
16 Epiphany B WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM W/ COMMUNION 9:30 am Bible Class	PRESIDENT'S DAY		19 3:30 pm Public & Homeschool Catechism 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 7 pm Choir		Bible Class Bible Class	21 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	22 9 amUsher Training WORSHIP 6:30 PM
23 Epiphany 7 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 11 am Bible Class	24	25	26 3:30 pm Public & Homeschool Catechism 6 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 7 pm Choir		Bible Class Bible Class	28 9:30 am Women's Bible Class	
	Looking Ahead Mar 2 Daylight Saving MIDWEEK SERVICES 11 am, 4 & 6:30 pm Mar 5 Mar 12 Mar 19 Mar 26 Apr 2 Apr 9					·	

The Stewardship of God's Word

Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. - Exodus 17:10-13

"You can be like faithful Aaron, holding up the prophet's hands." - CW 745. Many of us have joyfully sung that inspiring lyric since childhood and truly want to be a source of support for our spiritual leaders.

The harvest <u>is</u> plentiful, but the workers <u>are</u> few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. - Matthew 9:37-38

From the beginnings of the Christian church to now and to the end of time, these gifts to the church have been and will be in short supply. Still, God invites and directs us to pray for such laborers and promises to provide them in His grace.

Our recent 75th anniversary encouraged us to recall and rejoice over the many ways God has blessed our faith family. Among those blessings are many "laborers in the harvest field" and those training to become such with whom we regularly worship and live.

Over the years, God has also given over 200 sons and daughters of St John's a desire to say, "Here am I," and train for public ministry as their vocation. Below are some ways in which we can hold up their hands.

Greet the young people you suspect to be MLC students when they worship with us. Introduce yourself, learn their name, and thank/encourage them in their preparation.

• Support St John's members training for ministry with a gift to our Ministerial Education Scholarship. Gifts to that fund will reduce our students' tuition bills via MLC's Congregational

Partner Grant Program. That program graciously matches gifts that congregations make to their member students. Last year, St John's gave each of our MLC students \$750, which was matched for a \$1500 impact. Thank you for your generosity. As wonderful as that is, the program allows up to \$1600 to be matched. That means we could give them each an additional \$1700 yearly (or \$6800 more over 4 years). Let's commit to fully funding that grant and encouraging, supporting, and blessing our own in that way.

• Pray for our students. Below are listed the 8 young men and women from our church currently preparing for ministry at MLC and one at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

Heavenly Father, thank you for leading our sons and daughters to say "Here am I" and prepare for public ministry. Please bless them with a double measure of your Spirit so they may grow in faith as they study your word, reflect on their baptism, and receive your body and blood. Help me to personally encourage them and others in our church who have gifts to serve you in this way. Strengthen them against the temptations of the devil, the world, and the flesh that seeks to destroy their faith and distract them from their desire to serve you. Bless them in abundance, and allow me to support and encourage them in whatever way you direct and allow.

MLC: Justus Borgwardt, Cassie Goeglein, Dora Grubbs, Jacob Guenther, Josiah Guenther, Ella Hunter, Ruth Ulicky, Ella Wurster. Madalyn Fisher, Heidi Schindler, Estrella Strackbein

WLS: Joseph Wessel

Ushering Update

In December, I updated the congregation on the existing and on-going challenges with recruiting men willing to commit to serving as ushers, and as a result moved in the direction of including women on usher crews. In January, I met with the Board of Elders on this topic. It is the decision of the Elders that women are not to serve as ushers currently. While they agreed that there is nothing doctrinally prohibiting women from serving in this role, they prefer that it continue to be reserved as a pathway to encourage confirmed male members toward service in leadership roles. Additionally, the decision was made so as not to present a stumbling block to some worshippers.

I want to personally apologize to those who saw this action as a stumbling block. It was not my goal to promote a solution that would cause an obstacle to faith but rather encourage the use of the gifts our members have. Women are encouraged to continue to serve as greeters, advance slides, stream services, on the Altar Guild, and other ministry options within St. John's. There is a need for 10 confirmed men to serve as ushers so that each crew can operate in good order. The greatest need is still on Saturday nights. Listed below are the specific openings:

☐ Saturday Evenings (4)☐ Sunday 8am (2)☐

☐ Sunday 9:30am (2)

☐ Sunday 11am (2)

Men, please contact me if you are willing and able to commit to serving on a designated crew listed above.

Usher crews serve one month on, one month off. The average time commitment is 1.5 hours per service, but this is during

the time that you would be coming to church anyways, just a little earlier. Ushering is a wonderful way to serve with little commitment required outside of your time dedicated to worship each week. The purpose of the usher program is to is to ensure the good order of our worship services. Ushers serve on the front line of evangelism for guests attending St. John's and seek to ensure that all worshippers feel welcome and safe during the service. The Greeter program is open to our youth in confirmation class and all members. For more specifics, please contact me for position descriptions for either role. Our annual Usher/Greeter Training is scheduled for Saturday, February 22 nd from 9am - 10:30am. All who are interested are welcome to attend. If you have any questions or concerns about the Usher/Greeter Program, I would appreciate hearing from you.

He Reigns, Brad Price Deacon

deacon@stjohnsnewulm.com 507-479-9715

Central Africa Medical Mission

Ongoing needs for supplies at both the Zambia

and Malawi clinics.

Sunscreen lotion (SPF 50)

Sun hats (infant - adult)

Pill bottles

Onesies (infant - 2 years)

Pants/leggings (infant - 2 years)

Booties/socks

Washcloths (crochet ones are great but all work)

Baby blankets

XL Ziploc bags

Hand sanitizer

Climate Changes Impacting Farmers

December has traditionally been a rainy month, crucial for our local farmers in Malawi. However, LUTHERAN MOBILE CLINIC this year, we are facing an unexpected heat wave that poses a serious threat to their livelihoods. Many farmers who have already planted their crops are now watching them wilt under the relentless sun, this has caused huge devastation with the current cost of agricultural supplies which has skyrocketed, making it even more challenging. Just two years ago, the price of fertilizer was around 20,000 Malawi Kwacha (\$20), but now it has risen to an alarming 120,000 Malawi Kwacha (\$70). This steep increase strains our farmers' budgets and limits their ability to sustain their crops. The implications are dire, if this heat wave continues, we may face a significant drop in yields, leading to potential food shortages and increased hunger in our communities. The combination of wilting crops and high input costs paints a troubling picture for the coming months for many Malawians.

Gratitude for Support

Despite these challenges, we find strength in our community. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to CAMM and our generous donors

who through your donations, made this year impactful in the communities Lutheran Mobile Clinic serves. As a token of thanks to our dedicated staff we organized a wonderful early Christmas dinner for our general staff and a festive lunch for our professional staff just to appreciate them for their tireless work during 2024. The team's commitment and efforts on behalf of the Lutheran Mobile Clinic and CAMM are truly appreciated. We also extend our thanks to our generous donors who have contributed various donations, including monetary gifts, baby clothes pill bottles etc. Your support plays a vital role in helping us serve those in need, bringing comfort and joy during this season of giving. Thank You to Our Donors.

ADDRESS BOXES FOR MALAWI P.O. Box 30339 • Lilongwe 3, Malawi, AFRICA

ADDRESS BOXES FOR ZAMBIA LUTHERAN MISSION RURAL HEALTH CENTER

(Mwembezhi)

P.O. Box 310005 • Chelston Lusaka, Zambia, **AFRICA**

> **MONETARY Donations:** Check (Payable to Central Africa Medical Mission) Mailed to WELS Gift Processing N16 W23377 Stone Ridge Drive Waukesha WI 53188

Donate online www.camm.us/donate-to-camm

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Sandra Borth
- 2 Bruce Beatty
 Neil Schmidt
 Hazel Wiechmann
- 3 Ronald Borth Gerald Horner
- 4 Jack Price
- 5 Aaron Black Liliana Mohror Lyla Newman
- 6 Marlene Marti Gage Stanoch
- 7 Gabriella Smith
- 8 Jesse Brandes
- 10 Loren Weisensel
- 11 Angela Lingl
 Melody Neumann
 Julie Rolloff
 Kristin Uher
- 13 Frank Kral Adeline Wiechmann
- 14 Tanner Johnson
- 15 Grace StoeringKelly ThomFrederick Toltzman
- 20 Tyler Fischer Kayla Martin Keith Romsdahl
- 21 Charles Hussman Helen Poehler Norreen Ubel
- 22 Rachel Dauer

- Paul Gunderson Lavonne Lange
- 23 Christine Baganz Karen Hoffmann Isaak Pehling Devon Thill Zachery Toltzman
- 24 Shari Black Karrie Borchert Ziva Zahrt
- 25 Tonya Kowalke Steven Schroeder
- 26 Daniel Stoering
- 27 Eunice Anderson Joey Gilman Diane Hirschmann Linda Starke Nathan Wels
- 28 Richard Kuckhahn Maribeth Orth
- 29 Johanna Schaefer Ruth Schultz Weston Scriver



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church 627 South Washington New Ulm MN 56073

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Welcome to St. John's! 507-354-6744

627 S. Washington St.

www.stjohnsnewulm.com

Worship Times

Saturdays: 6:30 pm

Sundays: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

and online at:

YouTube.com

Search: Saint John's New Ulm

Adult Bible Class

(In person and online at: bit.ly/SJBibleClass)

Sundays: 9:30 am

Thursdays: 10 am & 7 pm Fridays (Women): 9:30 am

Sunday School

Sundays: 9:30 am

Staff

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Pastor Rob Guenther pastorguenther @ gmail.com

Staff Minister Jim Dretske sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com

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