

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



**THE LORD DOES NOT**  
SEE AS MAN SEES;  
**FOR MAN LOOKS AT THE**  
**OUTWARD APPEARANCE,**  
BUT  
THE  
LORD **LOOKS AT**  
**THE HEART.**

1 SAMUEL 16:7

*The Baptism of Our Lord*  
**January 11/12, 2025**

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**Pastor Rob Guenther**  
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**Today's service is televised locally**

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am  
Channel 3 - Nuvera: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**  
**January 11/12, 2025**

**PRAYER BEFORE CHURCH:** God we know that we aren't much to look at in our sinful state. On our own, we are ugly without and within. But in your grace you sent Jesus. You anointed him to be your servant. You sent him to be our Savior. And, by your grace, you anointed us in the waters of baptism. You made us clean. You made us pure. You gave us new hearts of faith. Help us to be your willing servants, anointed by you to serve in your Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**ORDER OF SERVICE**      **Service Setting 2**      p. 172

**OPENING HYMN**      *All Who Believe and Are Baptized*      CW 692

*Stand*

**CONFESSION OF SINS**      p. 172

**LORD HAVE MERCY**      p. 174

**GLORY TO GOD**      p. 177

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**      p. 178

*Be seated*

**ANTHEM 8am *Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love* CW 577**

*Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love; too vast and astounding to tell, forever existing in worlds above, now offered and given to all. O fountain of beauty eternal, the Father, the Spirit, the Son. Sufficient and endlessly generous: magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.*

*Creation is brimming with thankfulness, the mountains, exultant they stand; the seasons rejoice in your faithfulness, all life is sustained by your hand. You crown ev'ry meadow with color, you paint ev'ry shade in the sky; each day the dawn wakes as an encore of magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.*

*How great, how sure; his love endures forevermore. Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.*

*What grace, that you entered our brokenness; you came in the fullness of time. How far we had fallen from righteousness, but not from the mercies of Christ. Your cross is our door to redemption; your death is our fullness of life. That day, how forgiveness flowed as a flood: magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.*

*How great, how sure; his love endures forevermore. Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.*

*United in your resurrection, you lift us to infinite heights. Could anything sever or take us from magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.*

*How great, how sure; his love endures forevermore. Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

<sup>2</sup>But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

<sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

<sup>5</sup>Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

<sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” <sup>9</sup>Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup>Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” <sup>11</sup>So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

<sup>12</sup>So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

<sup>13</sup>So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY**            *You Are My Son*            Psalm 2  
*8am- Choir will sing the verses and the congregation will sing the refrains and the Gloria Patri.*

**SECOND READING**

Titus 3:4–7

<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### *Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### *Tone*



You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.

## GOSPEL

Luke 3:15–17,21-22

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>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.”

<sup>21</sup>When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**SERMON**

*Anointed to Serve*

1 Samuel 16:1-13

*Stand*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS** 11am

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

p. 182

# OFFERING

**HYMN**                      *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*                      CW 384

*Stand*

**PRAYER AND BLESSING**                      p. 171

**CLOSING HYMN**                      *Christ is With Me*                      CW 681

**PREACHER**                      Pastor Rob Guenther  
**PRESIDING MINISTER**                      Pastor Jeff Bovee  
**ORGAN**                      Jon Roux  
**JR. CHOIR**                      Emily Stoering

**Welcome, Visitors!** Please scan the QR code to sign  
our guest register.



## Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship  
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## **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

Sunday	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Psalms
Monday	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Tuesday	6 pm	Sunday School Meeting
Wednesday	3:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism



	7 pm	No Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	11:30 am	Stewardship Meeting
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Friday	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Jan. 19	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Psalms
Monday, Jan. 20	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Tuesday, Jan. 21	4 pm	Oak Hills Service
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 22	3:30 pm	Homeschool & Public School Catechism
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, Jan. 23	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices & Virtues
Friday, Jan. 24	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
	11 am	Highland Regency Service
Saturday, Jan 25	3 pm	Winter Carnival @ St. Paul's

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 379

### **Fruits of Faith:**

\$8,492 Home Operations ~ Budgeted to Date: \$17,798 / Year to Date received: \$8,493

\$1,289 WELS Missions ~ Received to Date: \$1,289 (2024 Goal: \$87,000)

\$625 MVL ~ Received to Date: \$625 (2024 Goal: \$57,000)

\$155 K-12 Education Assistance

\$127 Building Fund

\$105 St. Paul's School Building Fund

**St. John Food Shelf Volunteers** ~ The 2025 schedule for the food shelf volunteers is in your church mailbox. Please contact Deb Beatty (507-276-2722) or Carla Melendy (507-217-9750) if you have any questions.

**St. John's Cancer Journey Group** will meet on Sunday, January 19 at 3:00pm in the lower-level fellowship area. We encourage you to attend if your life has been touched by cancer at any time. Our gatherings are not only for the person diagnosed with cancer. We also include adult family members and supportive friends. Our purpose is to receive encouragement from God's Word and each other. If you know of someone who is not a St. John's member but might be interested in attending, invite them, and come with them!

**Cards of Caring-** Members of St. John's are invited to help make the cards our congregation sends to homebound 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 these Saturdays: January 18<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup>, and March 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 9507) – 676 - 1230

### **AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Bingo Night** ~ will be Wednesday, February 26, 2025!  
The MLC Ladies' Auxiliary sponsors this highly anticipated event for all MLC students. We need your donations! The Auxiliary is currently asking for baked goods, quilts/blankets, and cash for gift cards. Please drop off donations at the MLC reception desk. Or mail them to 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm MN 56073.

Questions? Please email [mlcauxiliary@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:mlcauxiliary@mlc-wels.edu) or call 507.354.8221. Want to promote the event in your congregation? Visit our [Bingo website](#) for downloadable materials. Thank you from many grateful students!

**Bus Drivers Needed at MVL** ~ Here at MVL/Palmer Bus Service, we're excited to announce that we are now hiring bus drivers! As two of our valued drivers are retiring, we have an excellent opportunity for new team members to join our dedicated transportation family. This is more than just a job—it's a chance to make a real difference in your community by providing safe and reliable transportation for the MVL students. Our drivers play a crucial role in the lives of MVL students, ensuring they get to school, home, and extracurricular activities safely each day. As an MVL bus driver, you'll enjoy a flexible schedule that works around your life, imagine the joy of seeing your MVL students as you help transport them to their school or sporting events! We're looking for individuals who have a passion for community service, enjoy working with kids, and are ready to take on an important role in our transportation team. If you're someone who thrives on helping others and wants to make a meaningful difference, this is the perfect job for you. Current openings include both AM and PM route drivers and extracurricular activity drivers. We provide paid training and all expenses in getting your School Bus Drivers License. Apply today and join us in providing outstanding service to the families of MVL. If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to reach out to Ray Vulcan, Palmer Bus Service MVL Site Manager at 507-995-5387.

**St. Paul's Preschool Open House** ~ Mon. Jan. 20, 2025 – 3PM – 6PM. New preschoolers, please come and visit! This includes SPP children moving to a new SPP classroom! St. Paul's Preschool offers full day & part-time sessions for 3, 4 and 5 year old children. Watch for a preschool Information/Registration mailing in early January. St

John's (NU & SE) & St. Paul's members and our school families are invited to have first choice of preschool sessions through Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. (Community "Open Registration" begins Jan. 21.) If you have questions, please contact our preschool director, Mrs. Heidi Meyer: [preschool@splnewulm.org](mailto:preschool@splnewulm.org)

**Amazing Race** ~ Just 6 days remain to register your team for St. Paul's School Amazing Race 2025! What an exciting way to support the School Building Project - by having fun! Put your team together before it's too late! Team registration is due by Friday, January 17, but since space is limited, it is possible registration will close early. Don't delay and risk not being able to race! Register your team of 4-7 people here: <https://bit.ly/amazingrace2025> . Cost to participate is \$15 per person and includes a ticket for a free taco in a bag lunch. All ages are welcome and encouraged. Not racing? Everyone can take part in events at school on Race Day, February 2. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

**About the Cover** ~ Samuel thought he knew which of Jesse's sons would make the best king. It was obvious. Just look at him! But God doesn't see things the way we do. He doesn't judge by external appearances. God judges by what's in the heart. Eliab wouldn't be the next king of Israel. David would. Though our hearts were once hard with sin and unbelief, thank God that he has given us new, clean hearts, purified by faith in Christ and his work for us. Now we are eager to live for him in service to his Kingdom.

**The Christmas Poinsettias were given in memory of:**

Charles Hussman - in memory of Mary Hussman

Naomi Hippert - in memory of Raymond Duhlmeier

Jerry and Mary Jo Johnson - in memory of Darrell Hartmann

Brennon and Madi Brase - in memory of Caroline Carmichael

Dave and Sue Paulson - in memory of Dad & Mom Paulson and Dad  
& Mom Schroeder

Bob Johnson - in memory of Jean Johnson

Mark & Jessi Berdan - in memory of parents

Dave, Andrea, & Melody Neumann - in memory of Lauren J.

Beerbower

Alan and Jennifer Uher - in memory of Otto & Alda Uher and Rev.

Kurt & Mrs. Ruth Eggert

Jamie Milbrett - in memory of Jean Milbrett

Ruth Koelpin - in memory of Arnold Koelpin

Jane Spoon - in memory of Richard Spoon

Mary Curry - in memory of Myrtle and Chester Curry

Delilah & Jason Brandes - in memory of Carter Brandes

Larry & Helen Black - in memory of Grace Ann Black

