

# Worship Guide for January 4, 2026

## The Second Sunday of Christmas

IN THE BEGINNING WAS

*the Word*

AND THE WORD  
WAS WITH GOD,  
AND THE WORD  
WAS GOD.

• John 1:1 •

### Welcome and Announcements

*Let us prepare our hearts for worship.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, *we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.*

Dear people of God, hear the good news: You are loved and forgiven in the name of  $\pm$  Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn**All My heart Again Rejoices**

1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and  
 2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to  
 3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and  
 4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are  
 us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that  
 small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is  
 death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
 grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure-ly give you."  
 yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.  
 ter - nal I shall be end-less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

Prayer of the Day

Together we pray: *Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Reading of the WordFirst Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock." <sup>11</sup> For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness

of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life. ***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> **God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup> The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, Word of Life. ***Thanks be to God.***

**Children's Message**

**Gospel Acclamation****Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (sing 3X)**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

lu - - jah. Hal - le - lu - - jah. Hal - le - lu - - jah.

**Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

SermonHymn of the Day

## In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness



1 In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the  
 2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant,  
 3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your  
 4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad



first light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it  
 firm, and sure, faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise.  
 match - less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us,  
 A - bra - ham; God of Mir - iam, God of Mo - ses,



worked a won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy,  
 Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es,  
 Word made flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior,  
 Fi - 'ry Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward,



in your mer - - - - - cy, you em - braced us  
 sing - ing prais - - - - - es, long as heart and  
 Friend and Sav - - - - - ior, in whose life we  
 lead us home - - - - - ward, to the love - feast



as your own, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 breath en - dure,  
 glimpse your face,  
 of the Lamb,

**Prayers of the People**

Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

**Sharing the Peace****Tithes and Offerings****Offertory Hymn****Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach-ing peo-ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

*Refrain*



Je - sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

**Offering Prayer**

Good and loving God, ***as you have blessed us with these gifts, let them be a blessing for others, revealing your light and love in the world. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.***

**Words of Institution****Lord's Prayer**

Together we pray: ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

**Sharing Christ's Meal**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Annual Meeting and  
Potluck is January 25  
Mark Your Calendars!

**POTLUCK**



Welcome to New Salem - we are blessed to have you worship with us today!

If you are looking for a church home, please contact Traci Schanke in the church office at 218-586-2262 or via email at [newsalem@paulbunyan.net](mailto:newsalem@paulbunyan.net). If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book outside the church office.

Website: [newsalemlutheran.org](http://newsalemlutheran.org)

YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN

### Worship Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with various Sunday ministries here at New Salem! Ushers, readers/Communion assistants, helpers to set up Communion before the worship service and tidy up afterward, offering counters (we will train you!), and hosts for our coffee fellowship after worship. Sign up as a family or team up with a friend or two! **Signup sheets are available on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. Remember: If no one signs up to host coffee fellowship, THERE IS NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP.**



## Communion Hymn #1

## Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'r's, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

**Communion Hymn #2****Holy Child Within the Manger**

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -  
 2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your  
 3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry  
 love for us was shown, when the im - age of your  
 ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.  
 glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.  
 stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the  
 Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and  
 In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -  
 fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -  
 strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.  
 pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.  
 giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

**Communion Blessing****Post Communion Prayer**

Radiant God, *in this holy meal you have revealed your glory to us in the gift of Jesus Christ. You have nourished us with your grace, now send us into the world bearing your light, that what has been made known to us may be made known through us in a world seeking your peace. Amen.*

**Benediction****Sending Hymn****He Came Down**

- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
 he came down that we may have light;  
 he came down that we may have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.  
 he came down that we may have joy;

**Today's Worship Leaders/Assistants**

Guest Preacher: Tim Lutz

Social Media Coordinator: Nora Illies

Ushers: Sue and Stu Rosselet

Setting the Lord's Table: Sonya &amp; Paul Kraft

Reader/Communion Assistant: Karyn Lutz

Pianist: Cheryl Durant

Fellowship Host: Joy Wilander

Cantor/AV Services: Traci Schanke

**New Salem Lutheran Church - Terry R. Hagensen, Pastor**

7491 Island View Drive NE, Turtle River, MN 56601

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YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN

**December Income vs Expenses (PRELIMINARY)**

Total General Fund Income for Dec: \$21,030

Total Expenses for Dec: \$21,646

DEFICIT for Dec: (-\$616)

12.24/28 General Fund Offering: \$7,390

**Attendance/Social Media Engagement (as of 1.2.26)**

Dec 28 Attendance (in person/online): 34/44

YouTube Views (2025 final): 2,275

YouTube Subscribers: 138

Facebook reach (2025 final): 74,638

## Announcements for the Week of January 5, 2026

**Today is Noisy Offering Sunday!!!** Get your change ready (folding money and checks also cheerfully accepted)! Noisy Offering funds are used at the end of the year to support projects selected by church youth.

**Pastor Terry on Vacation:** Pastor Terry is on vacation through Monday, January 5, returning to the office on Tuesday, January 6. We welcome Tim Lutz as today's guest preacher.

**Annual Meeting/Potluck is January 25 – Mark Your Calendars!** Please plan to attend this important gathering where we will review 2025, vote on the 2026 Mission Plan elect new Council and Endowment Committee members. The Annual Report will be distributed January 18 (hard copy and electronic version). Giving statements for 2025 will be available for pickup at the Annual Meeting.

**Annual Meeting Reports:** If you are responsible for contributing to or submitting a team update for the Annual Report, please get it to Traci in Word or Excel format (no PDFs) no later than **Monday, January 12**, to allow for formatting in time to distribute the final report on January 18. Thank you!!!

**Offering Reminder:** Please remember to indicate on your check/offering envelope how you wish your gift to be credited. Unmarked offerings/those marked "general" go toward New Salem's annual operating expenses; gifts marked for other entities are credited as such in your giving record and sent to those organizations. Thank you for supporting the missions and good works of New Salem!

### Upcoming Events @ New Salem

Wed, 1/7	Choir Practice	5 p.m.
Thurs, 1/8	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Fri, 1/9	New Salem Volunteers at Food Shelf	9 am-12:15 pm
Mon, 1/12	Annual Report Updates Due New Salem Volunteers at Food Shelf	9 am-12:15 pm and 12 – 3:15 pm
Wed, 1/14	Choir Practice	5 p.m.
Thurs, 1/15	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sun, 1/18	Annual Report Distributed	
Tues, 1/20	Team/Church Council Meetings	6 & 6:30 p.m.
Wed, 1/21	Choir Practice	5 p.m.
Thurs, 1/22	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.



### Music Rights/Permissions for January 4

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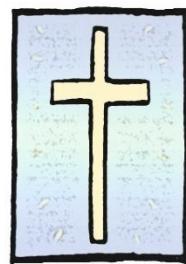
### Join the Choir and Make a

Joyful Noise!

If you like to sing,

join the New Salem Choir.

We are a fun, friendly, supportive group, and the ability to read music is not necessary! The choir sings for worship on the first and third Sundays of each month, as well as presenting special music at Christmas/Easter and participating in the summer Bemidji Area Church Musicians recital. Rehearsals are at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays – join us!

**New Salem's Highlighted Mission Partner — January 2026****Churches United***"Welcoming the stranger as Jesus."*

Churches United of Bemidji was first organized in 2002, when a number of clergy and lay persons came together to address the city-wide problem of the numerous low-income and homeless people and families who were frequenting the churches of Bemidji in need of financial assistance. As a result, after numerous meetings and discussions, it was decided that if all the various churches could come together we might find a way to pool our resources and therefore become more effective in assisting the poor. This, we all agreed, would also relieve pastors and church staff from the often time-consuming task of having to deal with those in need by referring them to a central location where trained volunteers and staff could be of greater help than we could accomplish by acting alone. Since that time, with the support of the many community churches, Churches United has successfully achieved our goal and continues to this day to be a place "where ministry happens" as we work cooperatively to "welcome the stranger as Jesus".

New Salem Lutheran has supported Churches United since its beginning and continues to be a strong partner.

*Churches United is currently looking for individuals who are willing to donate 1-4 hours per month to helping in the office. Activities volunteers may be involved in include: greeting individuals as they come in, interviewing clients, photocopying, data entry, filing, donations inventory, fetching items from the backroom to meet client needs, and more. There is something for everyone and no need for everyone to do everything.*

*A love for people and a desire to make a difference are the main requirements. If you are interested, contact the director by stopping into the office business hours or calling and leaving a message anytime. Churches United is open from Noon to 4, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.*

Through the various services it provides, Churches United assists impoverished people and people experiencing homelessness. There are specific areas in which **you can help Churches United** transform the lives of those Churches United serves.

1. Financial Support: *Churches United* relies upon financial contributions from its participant churches to provide these diverse services but contributions from individuals are also quite important. *Churches United* accepts donations year round (cash or check). Note: All donations are tax deductible.
2. Volunteering: *Churches United* is open and continuing to follow COVID 19 protocols. We ask for just four (4) hours of your time per month. We have a job for you, no matter what your skill set is. If you like helping people, greeting people, filing paperwork, data entry, or just organizing the office; we have a job for you.

Winter is here, please help us provide for the needs of our homeless neighbors.

Please call 218-444-1380 to be sure that we are open, before coming to our office.

**God's Work, Our Treasure—January 2026**

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, **Churches United**, and urges you to consider the various ways you might support this valuable ministry.

You can send your check to New Salem and indicate it is for the work of **Churches United**

And we will forward your gift to them. <https://bemidjicu.org>

*Please prayerfully consider how you might support the work of this important ministry.*

## Sermon Notes/Weekly Assignment