

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

711 & 805 W 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



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Baptism of our Lord – January 15, 2023

“Welcome Visitors and Members!”

(Visitors, you may find helpful information on the back cover.)

Focus: Jesus appears as the Christ (the Anointed One).

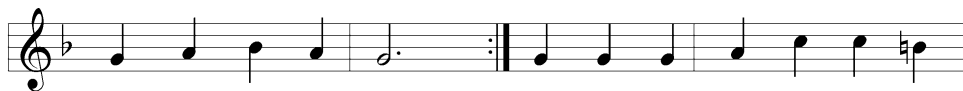
GATHERING RITE ON HOLY BAPTISM

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.



Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your



Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to



sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

M: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C: **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**
(John 3:5,6)

M: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. *(Psalm 51:5)*

C: **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**
(1 Corinthians 6:11)



My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -
My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of



forth your child and heir.
all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort



me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**



My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise
Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and



sure - ly will en - dure.
deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -



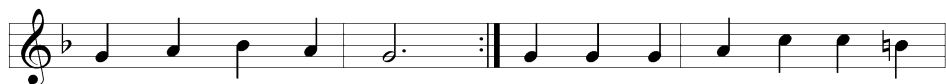
filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

M: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*spoken*) **Amen.**



All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it
Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me



all, O Lord, from me.
your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or



own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

M: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-7

*Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight.
I am placing my Spirit on him.*

He will announce a just verdict for the nations.

²He will not cry out.

He will not raise his voice.

He will not make his voice heard in the street.

*³A bent reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.*

He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.

*⁴He will not burn out, and he will not be broken,
until he establishes justice on the earth.*

The coastlands will wait for his law.

*⁵This is what the true God says,
the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth*

*and everything that it produces,
who gives breath to the people on it
and life to those who walk on it.*

⁶I am the LORD.

I have called you in righteousness.

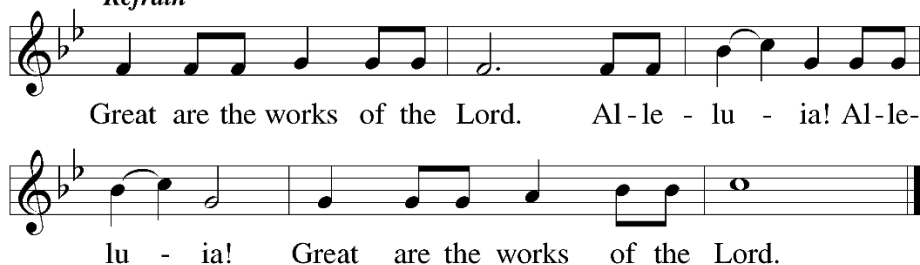
*I will hold on to your hand,
and I will guard you.*

*I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,
to be a light for the nations,*

*⁷to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.*

Psalm 45

Refrain



Psalm tone



My heart is stirred by a noble theme*
as I recite my verses for the King.

You are the most excellent of men,*
and your lips have been anointed with grace.

Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;*
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

In your majesty ride forth victoriously;*
let your right hand display awesome deeds. **Refrain**

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;*
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

You love righteousness and hate wickedness;*
therefore God has anointed you with the oil of joy.

I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;*
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen. Refrain

Refrain Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer. © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer (admin.
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Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-38

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: "Now I really am beginning to understand that God does not show favoritism, ³⁵but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁷"You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. ³⁸God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him.

Verse of the Day: Mark 1:11b

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



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:13-17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan.

¹⁴But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, because it is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John let him. ¹⁶After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, ¹⁷and a voice out of the heavens said, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him."



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

377 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord CW 21



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, the Christ, whom
 2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— the Son of
 3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood and John bap -
 4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound came God's own



heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, the God from God, the
 God in flesh dis - guised— to stand be - neath the
 tized the Lamb of God, the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 voice with words pro - found: "This is my Son," was



Light from Light, the Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.
 Fa - ther's will and all his prom - is - es ful - fill.
 heav'n - ly dove, de - scend - ed on him from a - bove.
 his de - cree, "the one I love, who pleas - es me."

5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
 anointed Christ in glorious sight
 as God's own choice, from Adam's fall
 to save the world and free us all.

6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!
 This man is Christ, our substitute!
 He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
 proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Text: James P. Tiefel, b. 1949

Tune: *Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien*, Hamburg, 1690, alt.

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SERMON TEXT: Matthew 3:13-17

MATTHEW'S INTRODUCTION OF JESUS IS TRULY INSPIRING

- I. He's introduced as our beloved substitute.**
- II. He's introduced as God's beloved Son.**

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.**

OFFERING & WELS CONNECTION



The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry, but please use this QR code to fill out a short form giving us a digital record of your attendance.

Visitors can also sign our guest register in the entryway by the drinking fountain.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

692 All Who Believe and Are Baptized CW 21



1 All who be-lieve and are bap-tized shall see the Lord's sal -
2 With one ac-cord, O God, we pray: grant us your Ho - ly



va - tion; bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, they are a
Spir - it; help us in our in - firm - i - ty through Je - sus'



new cre - a - tion; through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand a -
blood and mer - it; grant us to grow in grace each day that



mong the glo-rious, heav'n-ly band of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
by this sac - ra - ment we may e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703

Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, Wittenberg, 1524

Text and tune: Public domain

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This Week at St. John's: Jan 15, 2023

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Marilyn Shaw & Alice Glinski

Ushers: Team 4- Rex Roehl's team

Altar Guild: Dianne Buettner & Judy Trunkel

Donating Bulletins Last Sunday: Gloria Hamm

Donating Bulletins Today: Pat Strangfeld

Donating Website in January: Henry & Julie Berry

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Kathleen Quast & Lynda Hilliard

Ushers: Team 1- Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Lynda Urban

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

Sunday Jan 15:

Worship Service	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class	10:15 a.m.

Monday Jan 16:

Shut-In Visits	9:00 a.m.
Shut-In Visits	2:00 p.m.
LIGHTS	6:00 p.m.

Tuesday Jan 17:

Shut-In Visits	1:15 p.m.
Band Practice	4:30 p.m.

Wednesday Jan 18:

Chapel	8:20 a.m.
Bible Study	4:00 p.m.

Thursday Jan 19:

Adult Instruction Class	5:30 p.m.
Handbells	6:00 p.m.
Choir	7:00 p.m.

Friday Jan 20:

No School-End of 2nd Quarter

Sunday Jan 22:

Communion Service	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	10:15 a.m.
Annual Voters Meeting	10:15 a.m.

CHURCH NEWS

10 Lies About God: Today we will continue our Bible Study called "10 Lies About God." We will finish up the lesson on "God Just Wants Me To Be Happy," and start the second lesson "There Are Many Ways Into God's Presence." We hope many of you can join us in the church basement after the worship service today.

Sunday School: Sunday School will be held today for children 3 years old through 8th grade.

Wednesday Bible Study: We will continue our Wednesday Bible Study **this week**. Join us from 4:00 to 5:00 in the ELC conference room as we continue our study of the book of Romans.

Bulletins: Would you like to donate bulletins on a particular Sunday in 2023? The sign-up sheet for 2023 is available on the table in the entryway. Cost to donate bulletins is \$10.00 per Sunday.

If interested, please sign up on the sheet for the date you would like. Payment can be made any time throughout the year. Simply place the money in a marked envelope and put it in the offering basket.

Initial Offering Envelopes: The "Initial Offering" envelopes you will find in your new envelope boxes may be used to help defray the cost of the offering envelopes. Actual cost comes to about \$3.00 per box.

Annual Voters' Meeting: Our annual voters' meeting will be held next Sunday, January 22rd, right after the worship service. All voters are encouraged to attend. Voters will be asked to approve the 2023 budget, and we will be going over a recap of ministry from last year and what's coming up in 2023. **Reports for the voters' meeting are available on the table in the entryway. Please pick one up and read through it in preparation for the meeting next Sunday.**

BB Games: On Tuesday we travel to St. Paul's Menomonie. Games will be played at 4:00 (B Team) and 5:00 (A Team)

On Thursday we travel to St. Peter, Schofield. Games will be played at 4:30 (B Team) and 5:30 (A Team).

Pioneers: Our Pioneer Christmas party that was postponed in December will be held this Wednesday, January 18th, at 6:00. All children are invited. They may bring a white elephant gift and/or a snack to share if they would like.

Family Bruce Mound Outing: Our neighboring churches of St. John's, Christie, and Immanuel, Globe, are planning a tubing outing at Bruce Mound for Saturday, February 4th, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. All are welcome to come. A pot-luck supper will be available; bring your own beverages.

Winter Carnival: Our church's HIS Group (Hands in Service) is sponsoring a children's carnival on Saturday, February 25th as part of Neillsville's Winter Carnival. The children's carnival will be held here in our gym from 11:00-1:00. There will be bounce houses, a cake-walk, face painting, balloon animals, a giant slide, concessions, crafts...activities for all ages! Parents are expected to stay while their children are here. Cost will be \$5.00 per child (ages 1-12). Infants and ages 13+ are Free! Cost for the cake walk is \$1. We hope many parents and children can attend!!

Volunteers are needed to help with the carnival. We also need bakers who would be willing to bake cakes or cupcakes for the cake walk. A sign-up sheet for cakes/cupcakes is on the table in the entryway. To help in other ways, please contact Megan Allard, Darlene Zschernitz, Linda Biebert, or the school office.

Proceeds from the Kids Carnival will go toward new signage for the ELC/School and the church.

Website Devotion: A new devotion is available on our website: "Can God help me be more fulfilled?" based on Psalm 107:9. Several printed copies of the devotion are available on the table in the entryway. To access this devotion online, go to www.stjohnsneillsville.com/Devotions

Take Down Decorations: We thank all who helped to take down the Christmas decorations yesterday. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Band Practice: Church band practice will be held this Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in the church balcony. If you are the proud owner of an instrument and love to play it, please join us!

Church Janitor: We would like to take this opportunity to thank **Craig Anderson**, who has stepped down from the position, for his years of faithful service to the Lord and this congregation as one of our church custodians. We also want to thank **Joel & Darlene Zschernitz**, who will be taking his place as church custodians, along with Grant Harder. We thank Joel & Darlene for their willingness to serve our congregation!

FIC: It is time to renew our subscription. If you would like to continue receiving the "Forward In Christ" magazine here at church or would like to try it for the first time, cost is **\$12.00/year**.

You will find a "Forward In Christ" sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway. Please sign up on the sheet; money should be turned in as soon as possible. Please place your payment in a plain envelope marked "FIC." You can put that in the offering basket or drop it off in the school office.

Offering Statements: 2022 offering statements are available in the entryway this morning. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Marriage Enrichment: Trinity Lutheran Church of the Town of Berlin (located near Merrill, WI) will be having a marriage enrichment event titled "Richer Marriage." This event will be led by longtime WELS pastor and marriage enrichment event presenter, Randy Hunter. It will cover the following four topics:
* Improve your communication * Move through your conflict * Improve your financial relationship * Grow your sexual intimacy
* It will take place at Trinity on Saturday, February 4, from 9 AM to 4 PM. Snacks, refreshments, and a catered lunch will be provided. The cost is \$35 a couple. If you are married, please consider attending this event! To register, go to Eventbrite.com and search for "richer marriage." If you have any questions or need help registering, call, text, or email Pastor Andy DeGier (pastorandydegier@gmail.com, 920-471-1770).

Christian Life Resources: You may have noticed an offering envelope in your boxes for Christian Life Resources (CLR). CLR is affiliated with the Wisconsin Synod, and their mission is to use "Life and Family issues as bridges to convey the love of God and to share the message of salvation through Christ. We love because He first loved us." If you'd like to learn more about CLR, you can visit their website:

<https://christianliferesources.com/>

WELS Weekly Prayer: WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership – Father in heaven, you have given all of us abilities to be used in your service. We thank you for providing gifted leaders to share their knowledge and experience with many others at this week's WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership. Bless those who attend this gathering with strong desire and ideas for sharing the important message of Jesus Christ, the Savior of all. Give the speakers the zeal of the prophets and the wisdom of Solomon to instill in those who attend love for you and others. May the participants receive many blessings in this endeavor. Amen.

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Last Sunday: 108

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given last week:

\$7,300.50 (Home); \$343.00 (Missions)

TOGETHER




January 10, 2023

Conference of Presidents' January 2023 meeting

The Conference of Presidents (COP) held its winter meeting Jan. 3-6, 2023, with all members present. Items addressed include the following:

- The COP has begun planning for the 2023 synod convention. The convention will be held July 31-Aug. 3 at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Mich. The convention theme will be "Embrace the Cross—Anticipate the Crown." The essayist for the convention will be Rev. Phil Hirsch. Rev. James Huebner will preach for the opening service. The convention will discuss and adopt the synod's two-year ministry financial plan (budget), declare and recognize fellowship with the Obadiah Lutheran Synod from Uganda and the Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional from Latin America. Several bylaw changes will be considered, and reports will be presented by all areas of ministry and synod entities.
- A committee will soon be appointed to plan for the 2025 celebration of the 175th anniversary of the synod's founding in 1850.
- The COP was informed by Christian Family Solutions of the growing need for Christian counselors. Further discussion will take place on how this might be accomplished.
- The COP discussed the best way to move forward with the study and discussion of the restatement of the synod's doctrinal statement on the roles of men and women. Further discussion will take place at the COP's March meeting.
- A special task force has been exploring practical ways for congregations to provide support and encouragement for early childhood teachers and directors. These suggestions will be promoted by district presidents in the months ahead as they have the opportunity.
- The COP discussed the potential impact of new federal executive regulations regarding transgender "affirming" issues on our synod, congregations, and schools. We are thankful that the U.S. Supreme Court has dealt with similar issues by upholding the principles of religious liberty, but we need to be prepared to respond if the government attempts to force us to act against the scriptural principles on which we stand.
- The COP will recommend to the synod convention that the Publication Coordinating Commission be disbanded, since the work it did is now being carried out by other entities.
- A special task force appointed by the COP studied ways to improve the ability of called workers to express how their gifts for ministry might be used. The task force maintained that it is important for the church and

- her called workers to encourage and instill an attitude of “Here am I; send me!” At the same time, called workers at times may wish to express their concerns about how their talents can best be used in the kingdom. The task force believes that we have existing structures in place (district presidents, circuit pastors, congregational leaders, etc.) for workers to express those concerns in a way that continues both to honor the divinity of the call and acknowledge sanctified human judgment to make best use of the talents and gifts of called workers.
- The COP reviewed the number of vacancies for pastor-trained positions. That number continues to grow, reminding us of the need not only for increased recruitment of young men but also of the need for men serving in other careers to consider the pastoral ministry as a second career.
- The COP called Mr. Sean Young to serve as a Christian giving counselor for the Northern Wisconsin District and Mr. Terry Helton to serve as a Christian giving counselor for the Michigan and North Atlantic Districts.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

Lutheran leadership focus in 2023

In 2023, *Forward in Christ* (FIC) will include a special focus on Lutheran leadership. Each issue will contain features, editorials, or news stories that share insights and ideas to help and encourage readers as they strive to be Lutheran leaders in their congregations, homes, and communities.

Attendees of the 2023 WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership, being held Jan. 16–18 in Chicago, may recognize some topics and authors.


“Our goal is to build on the information presented at the conference, allowing those who attended an opportunity to continue to grow and offering those who couldn’t make it a chance to access expert knowledge on multiple topics involving Lutheran leadership,” says Rev. James Pope, FIC’s executive editor.

January’s FIC highlights Lutheran Leadership conference presenters’ views on what Lutheran leadership means to them.

Upcoming topics include:

- February: How to strengthen ministry teams.
- March: Congregational health: What matters and what doesn’t.
- April: How to be an effective Christian leader in your vocation.

Look for the Lutheran leadership icon to identify related articles.

Find articles and related materials online at forwardinchrist.net/lutheran-leadership. 



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit
wels.net/together.

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Worship Schedule: Sundays at 9:00am

"Welcome Visitors & Members!"

To those who are visiting us for the first time, we extend our sincere welcome; to our friends who know us we renew our welcome; to those who seek a church home we invite you to be part of our family and enjoy fellowship with our Savior.

To assist you in worship, personal listening devices are available for anyone to use. Please talk to the ushers for assistance.

Visitors, if you would like to know more about our church or school, please introduce yourself to our pastor. He would be delighted to speak with you and serve you in whatever way he can. Please sign our guest register which you will find in the entryway by the drinking fountain.

We love seeing young children in church as we want families to worship together. We also love to hear children making a "joyful noise to the Lord." If you need some privacy for feeding an infant or changing a diaper, please make use of our parents' room off the north side of the entryway where you can still listen to the service.