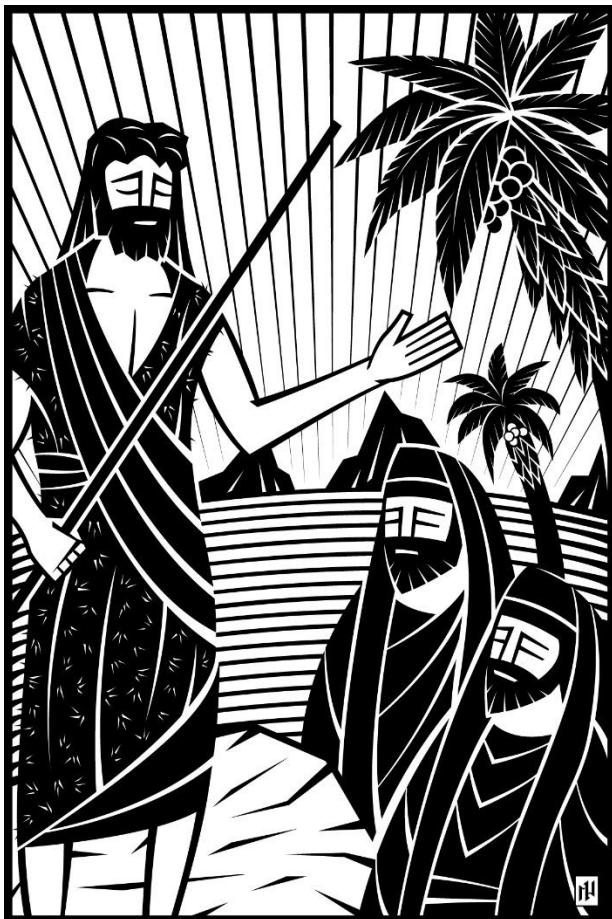


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



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Advent 2 ☪ ☪

December 4, 2022

“Welcome Visitors and Members!”

(Visitors, you may find helpful information on pg. 28.)

Focus: Repent! The kingdom of God is near.

360 Behold, a Branch Is Growing

CW 21



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love-liest form and grace!
 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom-ise sure,
 3 This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man woes,



As proph-ets sang, fore-know- ing, it springs from Jes- se's race
 and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a virg- gin meek and pure.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where.
 O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con-quer'd all our foes,



and now be gins to flow'r in midst of cold - est
 Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to her is
 True man, and yet true God, from sin and death he
 bring us at last, we pray, to the bright courts of



win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
 giv - en at mid- night calm and still.
 saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 heav - en and to the end - less day.

Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.

Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599

Text and tune: Public domain

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

C *(spoken)* Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy

on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



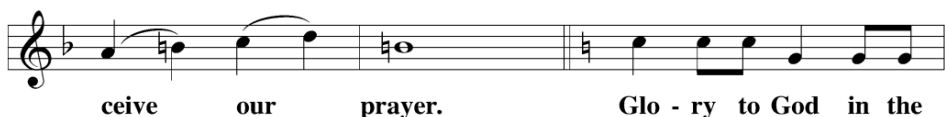
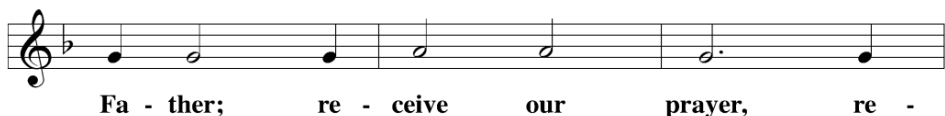
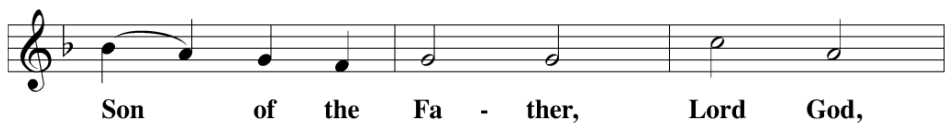
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

M Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *(spoken)* Amen.

THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

*A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.*

*²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

*³He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,
⁴but with righteousness he will judge the poor,
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.*

*⁵Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.*

*⁶The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,
and a little child will lead them.*

*⁷The cow and the bear will graze together,
and their young ones will lie down together.
The lion will eat straw like the cattle.*

*⁸The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.*

*⁹They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea.*

*¹⁰This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the
Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and
his resting place will be glorious.*

Psalm 14

Refrain



Psalm Tone



The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men
to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;
there is no one who does good, not even one.

Refrain

Will evildoers never learn—
those who devour my people and do not call on the LORD?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,
but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,
let Israel rejoice and be glad!

**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

Second Lesson: Acts 3:19-26

¹⁹Therefore repent and return to have your sins wiped out, ²⁰so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you. ²¹He must receive heaven until the times when everything will be restored, as God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

²²"Moses said to the fathers:

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet from your brothers who is like me. Listen to everything he tells you. ²³And this is what will happen: Every person who does not listen to that prophet will be completely cut off from the people.

²⁴"Also, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have talked about these days. ²⁵You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with our fathers when he said to Abraham: In your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed.

²⁶"God raised up his servant and sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you away from your wicked ways.

Verse of the Day: Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. And everyone will see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ²"Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!"

³Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight."

⁴John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him.

⁶They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned

you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! ⁹Do not think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'

For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good

fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I

am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will

thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."



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

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from
heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures.**

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

316 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry CW 21



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
up to fall no more; O make your face on
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749

Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 3:1-12

ENJOY THE BEST SOUNDS OF THE SEASON -- GOOD PREACHING

- I. Good preaching calls for repentance from all.
- II. Good preaching calls for a Substitute for all.

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING



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.

THE SACRAMENT

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

M Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C It is good and right so to do.

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -
ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my $\text{\textcircled{C}}$ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my $\text{\textcircled{C}}$ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C (*spoken*) Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

St. John's practices "member communion." We ask, therefore, that only those who are members of St. John's or another WELS/ELS congregation partake of the sacrament.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: 32 & 312

32 When Sinners See Their Lost Condition



1 When sin - ners see their lost con - di - tion And feel
 2 When Je - sus en - ters meek and low - ly To fill
 3 When Je - sus en - ters land and na - tion And chang -
 4 When Je - sus comes—O bless - ed sto - ry— He works
 5 Oh, may he soon to ev - 'ry na - tion Find en -



the press - ing load of sin And Je - sus comes on
 the home with sweet - est peace, When hearts have felt his
 es peo - ple with his love, When, yield - ing to his
 a change in heart and life; God's king - dom comes with
 trance where he is un-known, With life and light and



his blest mis - sion To heal the sin - sick
 bless - ing ho - ly And found from sin com -
 kind per - sua - sion, Our hearts his truth and
 pow'r and glo - ry To young and old, to
 free sal - va - tion, That Sa - tan's pow'r be



heart with - in, All grief must flee be - fore his
 plete re - lease, Then calm and joy with - in shall
 bless - ing prove, Then shall our life on earth be
 man and wife. Through sac - ra - ment and liv - ing
 o - ver-thrown, And heal - ing to all hearts may



grace, And joy di - vine will take its place.
 reign, And hearts di - vid - ed love a - gain.
 blest; The peace of God on us shall rest.
 Word Faith, love, and hope are now con - ferred.
 come In heath - en land and Chris - tian home!

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–80, abr.; tr. Oluf H. Smeby, 1851–1929, alt.

Tune: WER WEISS, WIE NAHE (98 98 88) Christian Möck, 1737–1818.

312 Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 21



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert
 4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing
 dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no
 far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y a day;
 king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their
 now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their
 Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys
 now o'er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."
 ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
 see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1611-1684
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois
 Text and tune: Public domain

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis



In peace, Lord, you let your
ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for
ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
C **his mercy endures forever.**

M Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
C **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

M O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **(spoken) Amen.**

M 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 **(spoken) Amen.**

19

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come
5 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror

you a - right? Your peo - ple long to greet you,
to his foes. A light of con - so - la - tion

My Hope, my heart's De - light. O Je - sus, let your
And bless - ed hope to those Who love the Lord's ap -

Word be A lamp to light my way, To show me
pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come. Send forth your

how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.
beams most cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

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This Week at St. John's: Dec 4, 2022

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Judith Quicker & Nancy Hagedorn

Ushers: Team 1- Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Linda Biebert & Megan Allard

Donating Bulletins: Dick & Lynda Urban in thankfulness

Donating Website in December: Mel & Sharon Nemitz

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Donna Anding & Rosie Murphy

Ushers: Team 2- Verlyn Shaw's team

Altar Guild: Charlene Siebert

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

Sunday Dec 4:

Communion Service	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class	10:15 a.m.
Sunday School Teachers Meeting	11:30 a.m.
Advent for Women	2:00 p.m.

Monday Dec 5:

Pastor's Circuit Meeting @ Trinity	1:00 p.m.
Dartball @ Greenwood	7:30 p.m.

Tuesday Dec 6:

Chapel led by LPS Recruiter	8:20 a.m.
Church Band Practice	4:30 p.m.

Wednesday Dec 7:

Cookie Decorating	5:30 p.m.
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Thursday Dec 8:

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

Sunday Dec 11:

Communion Service/Choir-Bell Concert	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class	10:15 a.m.

CHURCH NEWS

Communion: We will celebrate the Lord's Supper today using the continuous style of distribution.

Advent: Today is the second Sunday in Advent. Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. The Church looks for the coming of her Savior in this threefold advent: his coming in the flesh; his return in judgment; his daily coming in Word and Sacrament. The Church encompasses all these facets of the season in the single word that defines Advent worship: "Come!" That single word is our invitation, our anticipation, our sure and certain hope. Come, Lord Jesus!

The Advent wreath that has been placed in the front of the church has some special significance. The wreath is made up of evergreens, symbolizing the everlasting life found in Christ. Bending the branch to form a circle further symbolizes life without end in Christ.

The candles on the wreath remind us that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is the Light of the world, and they each have a special emphasis. The candles stand for hope, peace, joy (that explains the pink color), and love. The center candle is the Christ Candle. We will light the center candle on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The Altar Cloths are blue during Advent. Blue is the color of hope and anticipation, as we look forward to Jesus' coming.

Bible Class: Bible Class will be held today after the worship service. We will finish with our study of "One by One." The focus of this study is on helping Christians understand why it is so important to see every soul as a treasure and why we want to be willing to spend the time and effort necessary to share the gospel with each one. **Today we will meet here in the main part of the church.**

10 Lies About God: Next Sunday we will be starting a new Bible Study called "10 Lies About God."

"God just wants me to be happy." "God helps those who help themselves." How many times have you heard these sayings in secular culture or from a professing Christian? Despite their catchy, positive appeal, these sayings and others like them have dangerous implications for Christian theology.

In "10 Lies About God," Professor David Scharf explains how these inaccurate beliefs distort your relationship with God and offers loving, Bible-based corrections that participants can use in response. The study includes ten lessons to help participants respond to false teachings about God and defend what the Bible teaches.

We hope many of you can join us for this Bible study.

Sunday School: *Sunday School will be held as normal after the worship service today.*

Women's Advent Program: *This year's Women's Advent program, being held at 2:00 p.m. TODAY in the church basement, is called "Countdown to Christmas." Using a Melissa & Doug Advent Calendar, it will provide a way for you and the child(ren) you love to bring a Christ-centered focus to your Christmas preparations. Moms are invited to bring their children along.*

Christmas Decorating: *We thank all who helped to decorate the church yesterday for this joyous time of year. Special thanks goes to Dick & Lynda Urban, who once again donated the large Christmas tree in the front of church.*

Heritage Tree: *In connection with our Christmas decorating, the Altar Guild would like to explain, especially to newer members, what the Heritage tree is. Our Heritage tree is set up on the north side of the church entryway. Families have furnished us an ornament with their names displayed on it to be hung on the tree, and we store them and reuse them.*

We would like to see an ornament from every family on the tree. If you have never furnished one, please consider doing so. You can simply place your ornament on the tree. If you have any questions, please ask any of our Altar Guild members.

Church Band Practice: *Starting this month we are going to create a set time for our church band rehearsals. The first and third Tuesday of every month we will meet at 4:30 in the church balcony. During these practice times, we will play music in preparation for future performances as well as working through liturgy music. This is also a good opportunity to keep us playing regularly.*

Don't feel like you have to come to these practices every time, because we realize everyone is busy.

If you are able to play an instrument and are interested in joining our band, please feel welcome to join us for these rehearsals. No matter your experience level in music, anyone is welcome! Join us this Tuesday at 4:30!

Cookie Decorating: *Our Pioneer group will be having a special meeting this Wednesday, December 7th, at 5:30 to decorate cookies and make cards to be put into care packages for our shut-in members.*

Bulletins/Website: *Would you like to donate bulletins on a particular Sunday in 2023, or would you like to donate our website for one month? The new sign-up sheets for 2023 are available on the table in the entryway. Cost to donate bulletins is \$10.00 per Sunday, and cost to donate the website for one month is \$23.00. (Please note that the website cost went up by \$2 from previous years.)*

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.

Chapel/Presentation Tuesday: *We will be having Chapel on Tuesday this week. Chapel will be led by Pastor Evan Chartrand from Lutheran Preparatory School. Following chapel, he will be giving a short presentation to the students. We look forward to his visit.*

12/18-Christmas Service: *All students in grades K-8 will be presenting their children's Christmas service on Sunday, December 18th at 9:00 a.m. That will take the place of our regular worship service that day.*

12/20-ELC Christmas Service: *We will be having a special Christmas service for our 3K/4K students. The children will be presenting this service on Tuesday, December 20, at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.*

December Calendars: *December calendars are available on the table in the entryway.*

Hospitalized: *Ruth Meihak has returned home. Let's keep her in our prayers.*

SCRIP: Are you looking for Christmas gifts for that "hard-to-buy-for" person? Perhaps a gift card would be a good choice. We are offering SCRIP gift cards for the holiday season. Through our SCRIP program, gift cards from many different companies, from gas stations to grocery stores to retailers, are available. We buy the cards at a discount and sell them to you at face value. By making use of SCRIP you can purchase gifts for family and friends and help your church at the same time. **More stores have been added, including Fleet Farm.**

SCRIP order forms are available in the church entryway. Orders and payment are due **by December 15**. You can turn in your order form and payment to Darlene Zschernitz or the school office.

FIC: The December issue of "Forward In Christ" is available in the entryway.

2023 Calendars for Sale: Living Stones Youth Group is selling beautiful 2023 calendars with inspirational Scripture verses and plenty of room for writing birthdays, appointments, etc. in the date squares. Get one for \$8 for two for only \$15. Get yours today before they're gone! Make checks payable to Living Stones.

Closed Captioning: We discovered this week that our worship services, which we post online using Vimeo, are now being automatically closed captioned. We checked out several of our recent services, and the captioning seems to be very accurate. (There are no captions while the congregation is singing.) If you are watching our service online, all you have to do is click on the "CC" button on the bottom right edge of the video and the captions will scroll across the bottom.

Beginning with this past Sunday's service, we will put a link to the bulletin on the video page (just scroll down to where you see the sermon text) so that you can have the bulletin handy to follow along with the hymns and liturgical singing.

Please spread the word to anyone you know who may find this helpful.

Invitations Sent: *This past week we sent 92 invitations to our upcoming Advent/Christmas worship services to members who have not attended with us for a while. If you personally know any of these people, please encourage them to join us for worship.*

Member Suggestion: *This past week one of our members had a suggestion he felt would be good for us to ponder in our hearts. While we're busy getting Christmas gifts for our loved ones this holiday season, why not consider giving a monetary gift over and above your regular offerings to the One (**your Brother!**) whose birth we will be celebrating, our Lord Jesus, without whom there would be no Christmas celebration. Something to keep in mind!*

Northland News: *"The Greatest Gift," a live outdoor nativity, will be held Dec. 17, 5-8:30 p.m., at Northland Lutheran High School, 2107 Tower Road, Kronenwetter. This is a free outreach event with no registration required. It involves a 20-minute walk through the woods stopping at stations to hear the true Christmas story from actors and carolers. Please bring an unchurched friend to learn about "The Greatest Gift." If you wish to have a reserved time for you and your guest(s), please visit nlhs.org to link to the reservation page.*

WELS Weekly Prayer: *World Missions – Lord, we praise you for your victory over sin and death and for giving us the privilege of sharing this good news with all people. Thank you for blessing our church body with many missions throughout our country and world where the gospel is being proclaimed. We pray for our missionaries and their families, that they may be strengthened by your Spirit for daily ministry with all its challenges. We pray for our congregations, our synod, and WELS-affiliated ministries like the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society that support missionary efforts. May your Spirit continue to guide the body of Christ in supporting your work. Amen.*

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Thanksgiving: 56; Sunday: 94; Tuesday: 4

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given last week:

\$14,140.71 (Home); \$1,073.00 (Missions)



Holiday Service Schedule:

Sunday, December 11:

We will be enjoying our Choir/Handbell Christmas concert during the worship service at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 18:

The children of our Lutheran Elementary School (Grades K-8) will be presenting their Christmas service in place of our regular worship service at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 20:

The 3K/4K students will be presenting their Christmas program at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24:

We will be having a special Christmas Eve song service at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25:

We will celebrate the birth of Christ during our worship service at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 1:

We will celebrate the new year during our worship service at 9:00 a.m.

Please invite those you know to join us for these special services.



St. John's Lutheran Church & School

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

Email: stjohns1886@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnsneillsville.com

Facebook (church): www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/

Facebook (school): www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/

Tim Biebert, Pastor: 715-743-3015; 1fisheromen@gmail.com

--Church Office: 715-743-2944

Mike Allard, Principal: 715-937-7534; allardmj1@gmail.com

--School Office: 715-743-2501

John Hagedorn, Chairman: 715-743-4653;

hagedornjohnw2@gmail.com

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.