

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

**love
your
enemies**

*Epiphany 4
February 5, 2023*

"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.

For further assistance in worship and information on our church, please see the back cover.

Epiphany is a word that means "appearing" or "manifestation." It's an attempt to capture the fact that God stepped into our world and in subtle yet unmistakable ways revealed his glory. Jesus spoke with authority as God himself and performed miracles. The Sundays in Epiphany are green to focus on growth and new life in the Church.

Today is Epiphany 4. Our focus today: Jesus reveals Himself as God by commanding us how to love others.

The church year begins here 2022

We are Here

Advent							Christmas							Epiphany													
December 2022							January 2023							February 2023													
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28											
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31																		
Lent														Easter							Pentecost						
March 2023							April 2023							May 2023													
			1	2	3	4	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	2	7	4	5	6	7	8	14	15	16	17	18	19	20							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	21	22	23	24	25	26	27							
26	27	28	29	30	31	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	28	29	30	31											
							23	24	25	26	27	28	29														
							30																				
Season After Pentecost																											
June 2023							July 2023							August 2023													
				1	2	3						1		1	2	3	4	5									
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	8	10	11	12							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31										
							30	31																			
September 2023							October 2023							November 2023													
					1	2	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30									
							29	30	31																		

580

Every Morning Mercies New



1 Ev - 'ry morn - ing mer - cies new Fall as fresh as
 2 Still your kind - ness and your love Ev - 'ry day our
 3 Let our prayers each morn pre - vail That these gifts may
 4 As the morn - ing light re - turns, As the sun with



morn - ing dew; Ev - 'ry morn - ing let us pay
 sins re - move; Dai - ly, far as east from west,
 nev - er fail. And as we con - fess our sin
 splen - dor burns, Teach us still to turn to you;



Trib - ute with the ear - ly day. For your mer - cies,
 Lift the bur - den from the breast; Give un - bought to
 And the temp - ter's pow'r with - in, Feed us with the
 With your light our souls re - new. Then shall we our



Lord, are sure; Your com - pas - sion will en - dure.
 those who pray Strength to live for you each day.
 bread of life; Fit us for our dai - ly strife.
 voic - es raise In un - fail - ing prayer and praise.

Text: Greville Phillimore, 1821-84, alt.

Tune: VOLLER WUNDER (77 77 77) Johann G. Ebeling, 1637-76.

Order of Worship: The Service Setting 2 (CW 21)

Throughout the service, the congregation speaks (or sings) the parts printed in bold.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Tune: Marty Haugen

Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

Glory Be to God

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Glory Be to God'. It consists of ten staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is written in a simple, clear style, with notes and rests clearly visible. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - migh - ty 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. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the'.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,
heav - en - ly King, al - migh - ty 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.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Father, keep your family, the Church, always faithful to you, that we may lean on the hope of your promises and be strong in the power of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Lesson: Leviticus 19:1,2,17,18

The LORD told Moses ²to speak to the whole community of the Israelites and tell them these things:

You shall be holy, because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

¹⁷You shall not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. You must openly rebuke your fellow citizen so that you do not become responsible for his sin. ¹⁸You must not take revenge. You must not bear a grudge against the members of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103

Refrain



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

Psalm tone



Praise the LORD, O my soul;*

all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

He forgives all your sins*

and heals all your diseases;

he redeems your life from the grave*

and crowns you with love and compassion. **Refrain**

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,*

slow to anger, abounding in love.

He does not treat us as our sins deserve*

or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*

so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,*

so far has he removed our transgressions from us. **Refrain**

As a father has compassion on his children,*

so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,*

he remembers that we are dust.

Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;*

the wind blows over it and it is gone.

But the LORD's love is with those who fear him*

from everlasting to everlasting.

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: From *The Psalms for the Day, Series C*. © 1976 Fortress Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Second Lesson: Romans 12:9-21

⁹Do not just pretend to love others. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another with brotherly love. Think of others as deserving more honor than yourselves. ¹¹Do not be lagging behind in zeal, but be fervent in spirit, as you continue to serve the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope. Endure trials patiently. Persist in prayer. ¹³Share with the saints who are in need. Be quick to welcome strangers as guests.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who are rejoicing; weep with those who are weeping. ¹⁶Have the same respect for one another. Do not be arrogant, but associate with the humble. Do not think too highly of yourselves.

¹⁷Do not pay anyone back evil for evil. Focus on those things that everyone considers noble. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, maintain peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰But:

If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him a drink.

For by doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day



Refrain



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

Matthew Luke 6:36

Alleluia! Luke 6:36 ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Alleluia!

(no introduction)

Refrain



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

Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:38-48

³⁸You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." ³⁹But I tell you, do not resist an evildoer. If someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰If anyone wants to sue you to take away your shirt, give him your coat too. ⁴¹Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶Indeed if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even tax collectors do that, don't they? ⁴⁷If you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even the unbelievers do that? ⁴⁸So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

729 *Son of God, Eternal Savior* CW 21



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and
 2 Bind us all as one to - geth - er in your Church's
 3 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us,
 sa - cred fold, weak and health - y, poor and wealth - y,
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed;
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



hal - lows all our hu - man race, you our head, who, throned in
 sad and joy - ful, young and old. Is there want or pain or
 free - ly may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and yours the
 hal - lows all our hu - man race, by your pray - ing, by your



glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead: fill us with your
 sor - row? Make us all the bur - den share. Are there spir - its
 sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stew - ards
 will - ing that your peo - ple should be one, grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, heal our wrongs and help our need.
 crushed and bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
 of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, abr., alt.
 Tune: The Revivalist, Troy, 1868, ed. Joseph Hillman
 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 5:38-48

WE ARE CHRIST(')S - with and without the apostrophe.

I. Christ's, because we belong to Him.

II. Christs, because we imitate Him.

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.

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

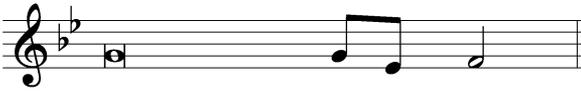
Preparation for Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.



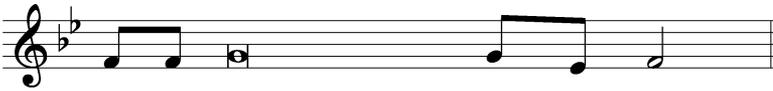
And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984, 1985, 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

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,

who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,



God of might. Heav - en 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!

Tune: Marty Haugen

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Prayer

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God



Tune: Marty Haugen

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Distribution-*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.*

797 I Know My Faith Is Founded CW 21



1 I know my faith is found - ed on Je - sus Christ, my
 2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, for Sa - tan seeks by
 3 In faith, Lord, let me serve you; though per - se - cu - tion,



God and Lord; and this my faith con - fess - ing, un -
 night and day to rob me of this trea - sure and
 grief, and pain should seek to o - ver - whelm me, let



moved I stand up - on his Word. Our rea - son can - not
 take my hope of bliss a - way. But, Lord, with you be -
 me a stead - fast trust re - tain. And then at my de -



fath - om the truth of God pro - found; who trusts in world - ly
 side me I shall be un - dis - mayed; and led by your good
 par - ture, at home with you I'll be, and there will I in -



wis - dom re - lies on shift - ing ground. God's Word is
 Spir - it, I shall be un - a - fraid. A - bide with
 her - it all you have prom - ised me. In life and



all - suf - fi - cient, it makes di - vine - ly sure, and,
 me, O Sav - ior, a firm - er faith be - stow; then
 death, Lord, keep me un - til your heav'n I gain, where



trust - ing in its wis - dom, my faith shall rest se - cure.
 I shall bid de - fi - ance to ev - 'ry e - vil foe.
 I by your great mer - cy the end of faith at - tain.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756
 Tune: Conventus novi, Augsburg, 1540, ed. Johann Kugelmann
 Text and tune: Public domain

767 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us CW 21



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your



life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your
 hum - blest char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious
 life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, "You have done it all for me."
 lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



and with that have free - ly giv - en bless - ings
 till our cold and self - ish na - tures, warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, that you
 Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, hope, to



count - less as the sand to th'un - thank - ful
 you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 need what we can do, say - ing by your
 stay our souls on you; but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-1889, alt.
 Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887
 Text and tune: Public domain

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

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

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

726 *Love in Christ Is Strong and Living* CW 21



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, faint - ing not when



hearts in one; love in Christ is true and giv - ing,
mil - i - ty, gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



may his will in us be done.
reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

Text and tune: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

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This Week at St. John's: Feb 5, 2023

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Pat & Alice Glinski

Ushers: Team 3- Dick Urban's team

Altar Guild: Charlene Siebert

Donating Bulletins Today: Gary & Pam Johnson in thankfulness for our Savior

Donating Website in February: Ray & Sharon Wetzel in thankfulness for our Savior

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Linda Biebert & Jenny Pagenkopf

Ushers: Team 4- Rex Roehl's team

Altar Guild: Pat Strangfeld

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY	9:00 AM Communion Service 10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30 AM Gr. 4-8 sing at Christie 11:30 AM Sunday School Teachers Meeting
MONDAY	1:00 PM Pastors Circuit Meeting 4:00 PM HIS Meeting 6:00 PM LIGHTS Meeting
TUESDAY	4:30 PM Church Band Practice
WEDNESDAY	8:20 AM Chapel 4:00 PM Bible Study
THURSDAY	5:30 PM Adult Instruction Class 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM Communion Service Gr. 3K-8 sing 10:30 AM FSJ Pancake Breakfast <i>No Sunday School or Bible Class</i>

CHURCH NEWS

Communion: We will celebrate the Lord's Supper today using the regular method of distribution (at the rail).

Bible Class: Bible Class will be held today after the worship service. We will continue our study of "10 Lies About God," focusing on the lie "God Has Grown Softer on Sin." Please join us in the church basement after worship.

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 school conference room as we continue our study of the book of Romans.

HIS: Our HIS (Hands In Service) group will be meeting tomorrow afternoon at 4:00 in the school conference room to continue planning for the Kids Carnival. If you're interested in helping out and would like to attend the meeting, please feel free to do so.

Care Packages: Our LIGHTS group will be packing 13 care packages to be sent to college students and military personnel. Donations of items to include in the packages are needed and welcomed.

Some ideas for donations could include: Kleenex, pens, post-it notes, hand lotion, microwave popcorn, fruit snacks, candy bars, raisins, chips, pudding, dried fruit, cookies, tea, dried soup mix, gum, soap, coffee, etc. Anything that can be individually wrapped works well; the list is almost endless. Cash donations for postage are also needed. Donations can be placed in the entryway. (The boxes will be packed up tomorrow evening.)

This is a nice way to show our young people that they are in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks for your assistance!

Church Band: Our church band will be practicing this Tuesday at 4:30 in the church balcony. Any instrumentalists are welcome to join us!

Pancake Breakfast: The Friends of St. John's Pancake Breakfast will be held next Sunday, February 12th, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the school gym. All of you are invited to attend. There is no charge; free-will offerings will go for tuition assistance to students who are attending WELS high schools or colleges.

If you are able to help out by providing any food items, cash donations, or kitchen/serving help, please fill out and return the donation slip by tomorrow. Thank you!

(Because of the Pancake Breakfast, there will be no Sunday School or Bible Class next Sunday.)

Pancake Feed Bake Sale: As you come to the Pancake Feed next week, please stop by the table in the hallway where people will be selling baked goods by the 7th and 8th graders and their families. Students are raising money to help fund a summer trip we are planning to do at the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter. We hope to make this an every-other-year trip. Proceeds would help cover gas costs, lodging, admission costs, etc. If you do not have a sweet tooth and would still like to donate, that would be very much appreciated too! The students are excited to have this opportunity; please consider helping them. Thank You!

BB Games: Thursday, 2/9: We have home games vs. St. Peter of Schofield. The B Team plays at 4:30, and the A Team plays at 5:30. Come and cheer for the Hornets!



Student of the Week: The Student of the Week is Carter Hannasch. Carter is in 5th Grade. He sets a good example in the classroom, is respectful, works hard to get his work done well and on time, and works hard on the basketball court. Congratulations Carter!

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.

Cash donations to help the HIS group cover the cost of the bounce houses, giant slide and game would be gratefully accepted. Total cost is \$535.00.

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

GPS Meeting: Our GPS group will be having a meeting right after church on Sunday, February 19th to discuss the Lenten supper (March 1st) and possibly talk about school kitchen cleaning.

Call Received: "Dear Members of St. John's,

On Thursday, January 27, I received a Divine Call from Christ-St. Peter in Milwaukee, WI to serve as Principal at their middle school campus. This would be a full-time principal call with the sole focus being building relationships with families and students in the school and community along with leading and collaborating with their staff. It has been and continues to be a wonderful blessing for me to serve the Lord here at St. John's as principal, athletic director, and upper grades teacher. We all have seen the Lord's hand in so many blessings throughout all of our efforts here at St. John's and the future is very exciting to think about and plan for.

It is also humbling to once again be called by another school as Principal and see if my God-given talents and abilities will benefit them and their families. I ask that you keep Megan and I along with our family in your prayers and offer your input as we deliberate the two calls I now hold, to serve here at St. John's in Neillsville and the call to serve at Christ-St. Peter.

The following passage provides me confidence and serves as a good reminder for all of us to keep in mind as well during this deliberation process knowing that our good Lord will work all things out in the best interest for both schools.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Call upon me and pray to me, and I will listen to you."
-Jeremiah 29:11-12

Serving you in Christ," Mike Allard

Information About the Call Process: If you are interested in knowing more about how our Synod goes about the calling process and all that is involved with and expected of our called workers here at St. John's and those all over, go to the link below.

The link will take you to a website that has PowerPoint slides giving details. Once you get to the webpage, just scroll down a

little bit and click on the download link for "Called To Serve-PowerPoint presentation."

<https://welscongregationalservices.net/called-to-serve-bible-study/>

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.

More FIC: The February edition of "Forward In Christ" is available in the entryway.

Meditations: The new "Meditations," which start on February 26, are available in the entryway. Please feel free to pick one up. Please consider a \$3.50 donation to help our GPS group cover the cost.

Special Thanks: Our LIGHTS group would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who volunteer to call members on their birthdays and anniversaries throughout the year. Your willingness to keep in touch with fellow members in this way is greatly appreciated!

Baptism Today: Today after Bible Class and Sunday School **Jenny Smith**, daughter of Jake & Karen Smith, will be baptized. Jenny is attending St. John's ELC as a 4K student, and Karen is taking adult instruction class. Congratulations on your baptism, Jenny!!

Conference Room Chairs: New chairs have been purchased for the school conference room to replace the old ones that were becoming not only uncomfortable but also unsafe. Total cost for the new chairs is \$422.02. \$341.00 has already been donated; is there anyone who could help cover the remaining cost (\$81.02)? If so, please stop in the school office. Thanks!

HRA Update: Several years ago we went to a health insurance plan that includes an HRA (Health Reimbursement Arrangement). Over the course of the past year, having this HRA

plan allowed us to save \$13,515 on the cost of health insurance premiums.

Kwik Trip Card Found: *Last Sunday a Kwik Trip gift card was found just outside the front doors of church. If this belongs to anyone, please contact the office.*

LUTHER PREP GALA XVIII: *Saturday, April 22, 2023 will be Luther Prep's 18th annual Gala event. Please go to lps.wels.net/gala18 to see the various ways for people to donate, participate and enjoy this year's LPS Gala!*

WELS Annual Report: *Several copies of "Your gifts, God's blessings," the 2023 WELS annual report, are available on the table in the entryway. If interested, please take one.*

WELS Weekly Prayer: *Martin Luther College – Heavenly Father, we pray for Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minn., where we train our future pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and missionaries. Thank you for the recent blessings to the college including the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse, increased donations for financial aid, and encouragement extended to students from people across the synod. Bless Martin Luther College as they carry out a new strategic plan. Lead us, Lord, to continue making our ministerial education schools a priority so that our church body can spread the message of your grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Last Sunday: 101

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given last week:
\$4,650.50 (Home); \$420.25 (Missions)

Lent 2023

The overall theme for the Lenten services for 2023 is "His Final Steps." The series ponders the significance of the people and places on Jesus' resolute final steps to the cross and three days later, his first steps from the tomb.

Ash Wednesday-His Final Steps Led to His Father's House

Midweek 2-His Final Steps Led to a Dinner Celebration

Midweek 3-His Final Steps Led to a Tomb

Midweek 4-His Final Steps Led to His Enemies

Midweek 5-His Final Steps Led to Some Greeks

Midweek 6-His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree

Palm Sunday-His Final Steps Led to a Donkey

Maundy Thursday-His Final Steps Led to the Upper Room

Good Friday-His Final Steps Led to the Place of the Skull

Easter Sunday-His First Steps Led Outside His Tomb

We will have three pastors in the Lenten rotation again this year, Pastor Biebert, Pastor Wilke from Globe/Christie, and Pastor Naumann from Trinity, Marshfield. On the weeks when supper is served, serving begins at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym, and all are invited to that as well. The service schedule is below.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22: 7:00 p.m. communion service

Wednesday, Mar. 1: 7:00 p.m. service (GPS serves supper)

Wednesday, Mar. 8: 7:00 p.m. service (Choir/Bells serve)

Wednesday, Mar. 15: 7:00 p.m. service (FSJ serves supper)

Wednesday, Mar. 22: 7:00 p.m. service (LIGHTS serve supper)

Wednesday, Mar. 29: 7:00 p.m. service (Pioneers serve supper)

Palm Sunday, Apr. 2: 9:00 a.m. communion service

Maundy Thursday, Apr. 6: 7:00 p.m. communion service

Good Friday, Apr. 7: 1:00 p.m. service

Easter Sunday, April 9: 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. communion services

To assist you in worship:

- ✚ Personal listening devices are available for anyone to use. Please talk to the ushers for assistance.
- ✚ Large-print bulletins available upon request.
- ✚ Personal Prayers: Red Hymnal (pp. 10-11); Blue Hymnal (inside front cover)
- ✚ Preparation for Lord's Supper: Red Hymnal (p. 156); Blue Hymnal (pp. 295-296)
- ✚ Luther's Small Catechism: Blue Hymnal (pp. 286-293)

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.

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.

St. John's Lutheran Church & School 711 & 805 W 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456

Contact Info

- Church & School Office: stjohns1886@gmail.com
715-743-2501
- Tim Biebert, Pastor: 1fisheromen@gmail.com
715-819-0456 (cell)
715-743-3015 (home)
- Mike Allard, Principal: allardmj1@gmail.com
715-937-7534 (cell)
- John Hagedorn, Chairman: hagedornjohnw2@gmail.com
715-743-4653 (home)

- Website: www.stjohnsneillsville.com
- Facebook (church): www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/
- Facebook (school): www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/

Worship Schedule

- Sunday-9:00 a.m. (Year-Round)
- Tuesday-6:00 p.m. (After Easter through November)