St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

 $711~\&~805~W~5^{th}~St.,~Neillsville,~WI~54456$ Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Blessed



have not seen
and yet have
believed

John 20:29

Easter 2 April 16 & 18, 2023

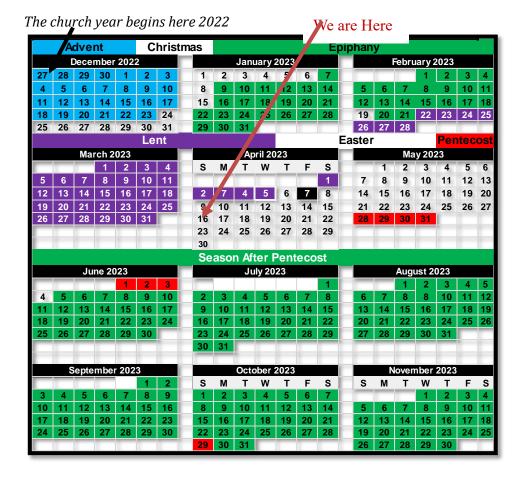
"Welcome Visitors & Members!"

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.

Easter: After forty days of repentance and prayer, the Church bursts forth in jubilant praise at the Resurrection of our Lord. The alleluias which were muted for Lent ring out again as the Bride of Christ welcomes her Bridegroom back from the dead. For 49 days the Church celebrates the resurrection of Christ on the Sundays of Easter which culminate on the 50th day, Pentecost.

Today is Easter 2. Our focus today: Jesus' resurrection brings us peace.



445 He's Risen, He's Risen CW 21



2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry

3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,

4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;

5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



pened death's pris car - nate Word. the he on, in nailed the Lord of cre tion was to the tree. a death. hell. and Sa he van-quished, his and tan foes. Christ rose, and now is fair E - den's door. 0 pen pro - claim the blest dings that all ti may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav ju bi - lant en, in song Sa tan's do did the In main hosts shout and jeer, The con - quer - ing lifts his ban -Lord ner on high; For all trans - gres - sions his blood our does a tone: Laud, hon and praise to the Lamb that was slain: or,



and earth, sea, and moun - tain, the prais pro - long. es for Je sus was slain, whom the e vil ones fear. he lives. yes, he lives. and will er - more die. nev re - deemed and for giv en, we now are his own. with Fa ther and Spir it he er shall reign. ev

Text: tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867-1941, alt.; C. F. W. Walther, 1811-1887, abr.

Tune: C. F. W. Walther, 1811-1887

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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

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



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



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



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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Lesson: Acts 10:34a,36,39-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak:

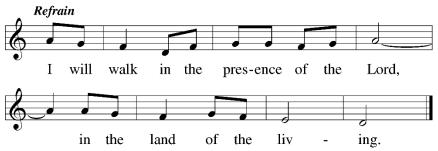
³⁶[God] sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁹"Indeed, we are witnesses of all the things he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem, yet they killed him by hanging him on a cross. ⁴⁰But God raised him on the third day and caused him to be seen, ⁴¹not by all the people, but by the witnesses God had already chosen—by us, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify solemnly that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that, through his name, everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16 CW 93





Keep me <u>safe</u>, O God,* for in you I take <u>refuge</u>.

I said to the LORD, "You <u>are</u> my Lord;* apart from you I have <u>no</u> good thing."

I have set the LORD always be<u>fore</u> me.*
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be <u>shaken</u>. *Refrain*

My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;* my body also will rest secure,

because you will not abandon me <u>to</u> the grave,* nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

You have made known to me the <u>path</u> of life;* you will fill me with joy in your <u>presence</u>.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the beginning,* is now, and will be forever. <u>Amen.</u> Refrain

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Second Lesson: 1 Peter 1:3-9

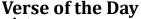
³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵Through faith you are being protected by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

⁶Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials ⁷so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.







John 20:29b

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia!

(no introduction)



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Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." ²²After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe."

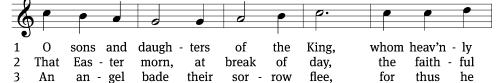
²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

456 O Sons and Daughters of the King CW 21





in

fear:

met

hosts in glo - ry sing, wom - en went their way spoke un - to the three, came their Lord most dear

That night th' a - pos - tles

to - day the grave has lost its sting! to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee." and said, "My peace be with you here."

a - mong them



8

- When Thomas afterwards had heard that Jesus had fulfilled his word, he doubted that it was the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he,
 "my hands, my feet, my body see;
 and doubt not, but believe in me."

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied; he saw the feet, the hands, the side;

"You are my Lord and God," he cried.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- Blessèd are they that have not seen
 - and yet whose faith has constant been;
 - in life eternal they shall reign. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- On this most holy day of days to God your hearts and voices raise
 - in laud and jubilee and praise. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615;

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615 Text and tune: Public domain SERMON TEXT: John 20:19-31 SAY IT WITH ME: I AM BLESSED!

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.

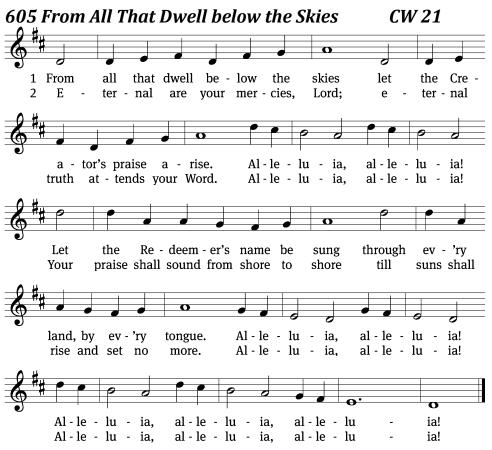
Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

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.



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This Week at St. John's: April 16, 2023 SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Linda Biebert & Jenny Pagenkopf

<u>Ushers:</u> Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team

Altar Guild: Jean Goetz & Ashley Leiterman

<u>Donating Bulletins</u>: Marie Meier for Clarence's birthday <u>April Website</u>: Gary & Pam Johnson for their anniversary

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

<u>Greeters:</u> Pat Strangfeld & Donna Zank Ushers: Team 3-Dick Urban's team

Altar Guild: Rachel Anderson & Jenny Shadrick

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY 9:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

3:00 PM Mental Health Workshop, Schofield

MONDAY 9:00-11:00 Shut-In Visits

2:00-3:00 Shut-In Visits

6:00 LIGHTS

TUESDAY 1:15-4:00 Shut-In Visits

4:30 Band Practice 6:00 Worship Service

WEDNESDAY 8:20 Chapel

4:00 Bible Study

6:00 Pioneers

THURSDAY 7:00 Choir

NEXT SUNDAY 9:00 AM Confirmation Worship Service

Gr. 4-8 Sing

10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

CHURCH NEWS

Guest Preacher: Pastor Guenther will be giving the sermon this morning. We thank him for being with us and look forward to hearing his message from God's Word.

Sunday School & Bible Class: Sunday School and Bible Class both resume today after the worship service. For Bible Class we will be continuing our study on "10 Lies About God."

Tuesday Worship: Our Tuesday evening worship services will be starting up again this week Tuesday, April 18th, at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: We will be starting up our Wednesday Bible Study again this Wednesday, April 19th. We will continue our study of the book of Romans. Please join us at 4:00 p.m. this Wednesday in the school conference room.

No Communion Next Sunday: Please remember that we will not have communion next Sunday, April 23rd.

LIGHTS: Our LIGHTS group will be meeting tomorrow evening at 6:00 in the school conference room.

Member Update: Bob & Eileen Bell have moved to the Neillsville Retirement Community, 1211 Lloyd St. Apt M6.

Dartball: We want to wish congratulations to the St. John's 2022-2023 Dartball team who took first place this season with a record of 21-15. We also want to give a special shoutout to Doug Zank who won the award of the best shooter this season. Members of the team were; Doug Zank, Dale Ladd, Mike Allard, Brandon Leiterman, Matthew Ladd, Ray Wetzel, Ed Crothers, Bob Rauk, and Henry Berry. Great Season Guys!

First Quarter Financial Reports: Financial reports from the first quarter are available on the table in the entryway.

Pioneers: Our Pioneer group will be meeting this Wednesday at 6:00. All boys and girls in grades K-8 are invited.

Art Fair: A school Art Fair will be held on Friday, April 28th, at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. All are invited to come and see the student's share their artistic talents.

3K/4K & K-3 Play Night: DVDs are available to be given away of our 3K/4K and K-3 Play Night. Please contact the office if you would like a DVD.

Coffee Order: Coffee orders are available to be picked up in the entryway.

Seis de Mayo Celebration: You are invited to join us at Neillsville's American Legion on Saturday, May 6 for a fundraiser to help send some of the 7th and 8th grade students at St. John's to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter. Money raised will be used for travel and lodging expenses, entrance fees and miscellaneous costs.

We will be offering a taco bar with two different types of meat, margaritas, festive music, bean bag tournament for those interested, raffles and other ways that you can win some prizes or money, all by helping the students go on the trip.

The cost is \$25 if you just want to come for the meal and \$35 if you want to play in the random draw bean bag tournament. Tickets are now available for purchase from the school office.

Bags will start @ 4:00 and food will be served from 5:30-7:30. Raffles will be drawn throughout the night and the students will also give a brief presentation.

Visitation Teams: Because of the pandemic, we haven't been doing much the last couple of years with our visitation teams. We'd like to get this going again. For those of you who may not be aware, these teams were normally formed of two people. Each team was signed up for one month out of the year, and during that month would make visits to our shut-in members.

As it's been quite some time since this has been going, we thought we should start fresh and form new teams and come up with a new monthly schedule. If you were on the visitation teams in the past and would like to be involved again, or if you'd like to try this for the first time, please talk to Pastor or call the school office and let us know.

We would like to thank **Joan Zickert** & **Jane Miller**, who have volunteered to serve as our visitation team for January. We also thank **Pat Strangfeld & Donna Zank**, who have volunteered for April. Thanks for your willingness to serve in this way ladies! Is there anyone else who can help out?

Music, Lit, and Skit Night: Our annual Music, Lit, and Skit Night will be held on Friday, May 12th, at 6:00 p.m. in the main part of the church.

What kind of show will it be? We would like to have singers, piano players, and other instrumentalists, but we'd also like to broaden the show to involve people who may not be musically inclined. We are also looking for people who may want to read an excerpt from a favorite book, or read a poem they've written, or act out a skit...The list is endless. There are no "prizes" involved; we just want to share our God-given talents with each other and have a fun evening.

Adults and children are both welcome to participate. Contact the school office if you are interested.

Calls Received: "Dear Brothers and Sisters at St. John's Lutheran Church,

On April 11, I received a Divine Call to serve at St. John's Lutheran in Bay City, Michigan as 5th and 6th grade teacher. My wife, Ashley, also received a Divine Call to serve as 3rd and 4th grade teacher. We are humbled to receive these Calls and are grateful for the opportunity to consider how our gifts may best serve the kingdom of God.

We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we deliberate both our calls to serve here at St. John's in Neillsville and at St. John's in Bay City. As we prayerfully consider these calls, the following passage provides us with the confidence that God always provides for his flock: "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Serving you in Christ,"

Brandon and Ashley Leiterman

WELS Weekly Prayer: Indonesia – Lord God, we ask your blessing upon our synod's mission work in Indonesia. By your grace alone, this group of 30 congregations served by 29 pastors continues to grow in their Christian faith and remain faithful to your saving Word. Bless the work of our mission counselor to Indonesia, Pastor Gregory Bey. Keep him safe in his travels. Guide him as he teaches and counsels the faculty and students who are preparing for ministry at their seminary. We also ask that you bless and increase the offerings of these congregations so that they may support their pastors in their work. Send your Holy Spirit to work through the means of grace in this mission and in all our world mission fields. Amen.

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Maundy Thursday: 97 Good Friday: 165 Last Sunday: 85 + 130 = 215

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given last week: \$8,944.66 (Home); \$3,207.00 (Missions)

Owed on Line of Credit: -0-

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)

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

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Website: <u>www.stjohnsneillsville.com</u>

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

Worship Schedule

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