

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



Confirmation

God is our refuge
and strength,
an ever-present
help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1



Easter 3/Confirmation Sunday
April 23 & 25, 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 3. Our focus today: The Easter Gospel gives us living hope!

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				1	2	3	4							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28											
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	3	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	9	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				1	2	3	4							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
							29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30									

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To Your Temple I Draw Near



1 To your tem - ple I draw near;
 2 I through Christ am rec - on - ciled;
 3 While your glo - rious praise is sung,
 4 While the prayers of saints as - cend,
 5 While I lis - ten to your law,



Lord, I love to wor - ship here.
 I through Christ be - come your child.
 Touch my lips, un - loose my tongue,
 God of love, to mine at - tend.
 Fill my soul with ho - ly awe



Here are sac - ra - ment and Word;
 Ab - ba, Fa - ther, give me grace
 That my joy - ful soul may bless
 Hear me, for your Spir - it pleads;
 Till your gos - pel brings to me



Here be - liev - ers meet their Lord.
 In your courts to seek your face.
 Christ the Lord, my right - eous - ness.
 Hear, for Je - sus in - ter - cedes.
 Life and im - mor - tal - i - ty.

6 While your ministers proclaim
 Peace and pardon in your name,
 Through their voice, by faith, may I
 Hear you speaking from the sky.

7 From your house, when I return,
 May my heart within me burn,
 And at evening let me say,
 "I have walked with God today."

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: GOTT SEI DANK DURCH ALLE WELT (77 77) Freylinghausen, *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, alt.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSIO OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

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



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

THE WORD

First Lesson: Acts 24:10-21

¹⁰When the governor motioned to him to speak, Paul replied, "Because I know that you have been a judge over this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. ¹¹You can verify for yourself that it was no more than twelve days ago when I went up to worship at Jerusalem. ¹²They did not find me arguing with anyone in the temple or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. ¹³And they cannot prove to you the accusations they are now making against me. ¹⁴"But I do confess to you that I worship the God of our fathers according to the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything written throughout the Law and in the Prophets, ¹⁵and I have the same hope in God that these men have, that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. ¹⁶This is the reason I continue to do my best to have a clear conscience toward both God and people. ¹⁷"After several years, I came to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. ¹⁸While I was doing these things, they found me ceremonially purified in the temple, without a crowd or disturbance. ¹⁹But there are some Jews from the province of Asia who ought to be here before you and bring charges, if they have anything against me. ²⁰Or let these men here state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin, ²¹unless this is about the one thing I shouted while standing in their presence: 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.'"

Psalm 67

Refrain

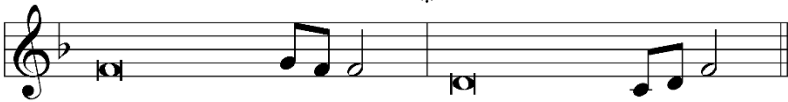


Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



May God be gracious to us and bless us*
and make his face shine upon us;

may your ways be known on earth,*
your salvation among all nations.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,*
for you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth. **Refrain**

Then the land will yield its harvest,*
and God, our God, will bless us.

God will bless us,*
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

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: Dale Wood. From *Seasonal Psalms*. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House.
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Second Lesson: 1 Peter 1:17-21

¹⁷If you call on the Father who judges impartially, according to the work of each person, conduct yourselves during the time of your pilgrimage in reverence, ¹⁸because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was chosen before the foundation of the world but revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Verse of the Day: Luke 24:32

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Our hearts were burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road, and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us. Alleluia!

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half).
- Staff 2: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half).
- Staff 3: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half).
- Staff 4: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half).

The lyrics are aligned with the notes as follows:

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

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

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

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

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:13-35 ¹³Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" Saddened, they stopped. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹"What things?" he asked them. They replied, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. ²¹But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. ²³When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸As they approached the village where they were going, he acted as if he were going to travel farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, since it is almost evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he reclined at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and began giving it to them. ³¹Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us?" ³³They got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those who were with them assembled together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord really has been raised! He has appeared to Simon." ³⁵They themselves described what had happened along the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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This Joyful Eastertide



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
 slum - ber Till trump from east to west



Has sprung to life this mor - row.
 My pass - ing soul de - liv - er.
 Shall wake the dead in num - ber.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three - day



pris - on, Our faith had been in vain: But



now is Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -



ris - en; But now is Christ a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934.

Tune: VRUECHTEN (67 67 with Refrain) *David's Psalmen*, Amsterdam, 1684.

SERMONETTE TEXT: Luke 24:13-35

SPEECHES BY CONFIRMANDS

TOPIC: WHY DO I CONSTANTLY NEED TO BE REMINDED OF THE WORK OF GOD...?

GOD THE FATHER'S WORK OF CREATION (Alaina Mathis)

GOD THE SON'S WORK OF REDEMPTION (Shaylen Pierce)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK OF SANCTIFICATION (Tasha Shadrick)



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.

CONFIRMATION RITE

Sisters in Christ: Our Lord Jesus said to his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The Apostle Paul, writing to the Romans says: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

Confirmation Vows

M: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

Confirmands: I do.

M: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

Confirmands: I do.

M: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

(As part of the confirmation rite, Pastor will invite the congregation to join the confirmands in confessing our faith with the Apostles Creed.)

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.**

M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, and that the teaching of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to that Word of God?

Confirmands: I do.

M: Do you desire to be a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and of this congregation?

Confirmands: I do.

M: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word; to be faithful in the use of the Word and Sacrament; and in faith and action remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as long as you live?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help me.

Address to Parents

Dear Parents, you have heard the confession of faith and the promises made by your daughters.

While we have no reason to doubt their promises, we do recognize that they are still minors and are under your care, that they still depend on you for guidance and love. The Holy Spirit uses you to put them in contact with the Gospel which will keep their faith strong until death. They need to hear it at home and with their fellow Christians here at church.

Will you continue to accept your responsibility to train up your children in the way they should go? If so, answer "Yes, with God's help!"

Individual Blessings (As each confirmand receives their individual blessing, parents and sponsors should stand.)



Alaina Lee Mathis

Daughter of Sam & Stacy Mathis

Date of Birth: July 3, 2009

Date of Baptism: September 5, 2009

Confirmation Verse: Joshua 1:9



Shaylen Carlyle Pierce

Daughter of Ian & Courtney Pierce

Date of Birth: May 1, 2010

Date of Baptism: July 4, 2010

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 46:1



Natasha Lynn Shadrack

Daughter of Shawn & Jenny Shadrack

Date of Birth: April 12, 2009

Date of Baptism: May 10, 2009

Confirmation Verse: Revelation 2:10

PRAYER

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.**

COMMUNION FOR CONFIRMANDS

Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given you by God through his Church; receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

Words of Institution & Distribution to Confirmands

CONFIRMATION HYMN: SPEAK O LORD

(sung by confirmands and other students from grades 4-8)

- 1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy Word;
take your truth, plant it deep in us,
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all your purposes for your glory.
- 2 Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility;
test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
let their truth prevail over unbelief.
- 3 Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us,
truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built,
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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BENEDICTION

- M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
- C:** **Amen.** *(spoken)*

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May God the Father of Our Lord

1 May God the Fa - ther of our Lord, Who
2 In Je - sus Christ may you be blessed And
3 The Ho - ly Spir - it give you pow'r, The
4 May God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And

called you by his ho - ly Word, Per -
brought to his e - ter - nal rest, The
strength of prayer in ev - 'ry hour, The
God the Spir - it, Three in One, Pre -

fect, es - tab - lish, set - tle you, Keep
work he has in you be - gun, He
wis - dom, knowl - edge, fear of God, That
serve you blame - less till in grace You

you through faith for - ev - er true.
will per - form till all is done.
lifts a - bove his chas - t'ning rod.
stand be - fore his ho - ly face.

Text: Dorothy I. Scharlemann, b. 1912.
Tune: TALLIS' CANON (LM) Thomas Tallis, c. 1505–85.

This Week at St. John's: April 23, 2023

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Pat Strangfeld & Donna Zank

Ushers: Team 3-Dick Urban's team

Altar Guild: Rachel Anderson & Jenny Shadrick

Donating Bulletins: Dick & Lynda Urban in thankfulness

April Website: Gary & Pam Johnson for their anniversary

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Betty Nemitz & Virginia Marg

Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team

Altar Guild: Dianne Buettner & Judy Trunkel

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY 9:00 AM Confirmation Worship Service
Gr. 4-8 Sing

TUESDAY 10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class
1:15-4:00 Shut-In Visits
6:00 Worship Service

WEDNESDAY 8:20 Chapel
4:00 Bible Study

THURSDAY 7:00 Choir

FRIDAY 6:00 School Art Fair

NEXT SUNDAY 9:00 AM Worship Service
10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

CHURCH NEWS

Confirmation: *Three 8th graders will be getting confirmed during our worship service today. God's Blessings to Alaina Mathis, Shaylen Pierce, and Tasha Shadrick!*

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

Wednesday Bible Study: *We will be continuing our Wednesday Bible Study on the book of Romans this week. Please join us at 4:00 p.m. in the school conference room.*

Art Fair: *A school Art Fair will be held this 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.

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.

Ascension Worship: We will be having a joint Ascension Day worship service with our fellow Christians from Globe and Christie on Thursday, May 18th. The service will be held here at 7:00 p.m. A joint choir will be singing for the service. Our Altar Guild will be serving supper at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. Please mark your calendars and join us for this special service!

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

Hospitalized: **Linda Biebert** was hospitalized for surgery in Marshfield this past week. Let's keep her in our prayers!

Our Sympathies: Our sympathies and prayers go out to Jane Miller and her family. Jane's father John Linster passed away on April 12th. We ask the Lord to comfort Jane and her family.

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

WELS Weekly Prayer: Martin Luther College – Lord Jesus, Martin Luther College has begun a new strategic plan called "Pursuing Excellence Under the Cross." Grant that this effort to move their ministry forward may be a blessing to all those on campus and to the members of our synod. Through this plan, we ask that you send more workers into the harvest fields of our churches, schools, and communities. Amen.

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Sunday: 102; Tuesday: 12

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given last week:

\$5,992.70 (Home); \$547.00 (Missions)

Owed on Line of Credit: -0-

TOGETHER



April 18, 2023


Moving forward in Vietnam

In 2011, leadership from the Hmong Fellowship Church (HFC), a church body in Vietnam numbering more than 140,000 members, invited Rev. Bounkeo Lor, a WELS pastor in Kansas City, to train their church leaders in the truth of the Scriptures. They desired not only to be trained in the Scriptures but also to know thoroughly Lutheran doctrine and practice. Regular theological training of dozens of HFC pastors began. In 2018, WELS was invited by the Vietnamese government and the HFC to build a theological education center near the capital city of Hanoi, an unexpected and unprecedented mission opportunity for our synod. While the COVID pandemic and other hurdles delayed initial plans, we're thankful that God has now made it possible for us to move forward. Just as God wisely and graciously guided the apostle Paul to carry out his mission efforts when and where God chose, so he has changed our plans—all for the good of his church.

The new Theological Education Center was completed and passed inspection at the end of January 2023. WELS took full ownership of the building at that time. The new center includes a chapel, classrooms, and dormitory/cafeateria space for up to 60 visiting students at a time. A formal building dedication and graduation ceremony for the first class of 57 pastors who have completed their seminary training is scheduled for July 2023.

The theological education of Hmong pastors in Vietnam, led by full-time professors Rev. Bounkeo Lor and Rev. Joel Nitz, trains those pastors to train other spiritual leaders. When COVID began, instruction shifted to online Zoom training, and a new three-year rural training program was started in order to reach more leaders and members in the rural congregations of the HFC. Until now efforts have focused on the first group of 57 students, who have completed their instruction in biblical and Lutheran doctrine. Now a second group of 60 students have begun their training. These men are taking what they learn and sharing it with nearly 1,500 local spiritual leaders of the HFC. The new education center will be a great blessing to the hundreds of rural HFC congregations as Lor and Nitz continue to equip their leaders to bring them the truth of God's Word.

Future plans are for Lor and Nitz, who so far have been making intermittent trips to Vietnam or using Zoom for training, to relocate to Hanoi to oversee the theological education program. Residency visas for Lor and Nitz and HFC government registration are still pending, but it is our prayer that paperwork will be finalized by the July trip.

Stay up to date on progress and learn more at wels.net/vietnamhmongoutreach. 

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

MLC Day 2023 is coming!

MLC Day 2023 is Wed., May 3. This day is set aside for Martin Luther College (MLC) students, faculty, and staff to connect with congregations, elementary schools, high schools, friends, families, and donors. This annual celebration is an opportunity for MLC and its supporters to do three things:

1. Share the importance of ministerial education at MLC—especially since WELS has such a great need for pastors, staff ministers, and teachers.
2. Encourage elementary school students, high school students, and second-career adults to consider preparing for the public ministry at MLC.
3. Thank MLC's donors for their support and ask everyone celebrating to help MLC students financially through the college's Congregational Partner Grant Program.

Want to join in celebrating the blessings God has granted to MLC and its ministry? MLC has provided the following suggestions for prayerful consideration:

- Use the first week in May to talk about ministerial education in Sunday schools, Bible classes, sermons, Lutheran elementary schools and high schools. For elementary schools, the Project Elijah classroom activities are designed for specific grade levels.
- Share photos, videos, prayers, and messages of encouragement at mlcday.com/share.

- Consider contributing to the MLC Congregational Partner Grant Program. A generous donor is matching all donations up to \$50,000 to help reach the \$100,000 goal. Learn more at mlcday.com/give.
- Follow the Martin Luther College Facebook, Instagram, YouTube pages through the month of April to view messages from the student body and learn about classroom video competitions! 🌐

Did you know...

WELS has a Facebook page?
facebook.com/welslutherans

WELS has Instagram?
instagram.com/welslutherans

Forward in Christ magazine has a Facebook page?
facebook.com/forwardinchristmagazine

Forward in Christ magazine has Instagram?
instagram.com/forward_in_christ_magazine/



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

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.

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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)