

***St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School***

*711 & 805 W 5<sup>th</sup> St., Neillsville, WI 54456*

**Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.**

*Arise, shine, for your  
light has come, and the  
glory of the Lord is  
dawning upon you.*

*Isaiah 60:1*

*Congratulations,  
Graduates!*

*Easter 7/Graduation  
May 21 & 23, 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 50<sup>th</sup> day, Pentecost.

**Today is Easter 7. Our focus today: Jesus' resurrection causes us to live in expectation of glory.**

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

## 747 Christ High-Ascended CW 21



1 Christ high - as - cend - ed, now in glo - ry seat - ed, throned  
 2 Christ, from the Fa - ther ev - 'ry pow'r pos - sess - ing, who  
 3 Christ, who in dy - ing won for us sal - va - tion, lives  
 4 Christ in his splen - dor, all do - min - ion gain - ing, Christ  
 5 As at his part - ing, joy shall ban - ish griev - ing, faith



and ex - alt - ed, vic - to - ry com - plet - ed, death's dread do -  
 on his cho - sen lift - ed hands in bless - ing, sends forth his  
 now the first - born of the new cre - a - tion; to win dis -  
 with his peo - ple ev - er - more re - main - ing, Christ to all  
 in his pres - ence strength - en our be - liev - ing; filled with his



min - ion fi - nal - ly de - feat - ed, we are his wit - ness - es.  
 ser - vants, still in faith con - fess - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.  
 ci - ples out of ev - 'ry na - tion, we are his wit - ness - es.  
 a - ges, glo - ri - ous - ly reign - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.  
 Spir - it, love and pow'r re - ceiv - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926, alt.

Tune: Antiphoner, Paris, 1681

Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

Tune: Public domain

**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.

### *CONFESSION 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:** Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



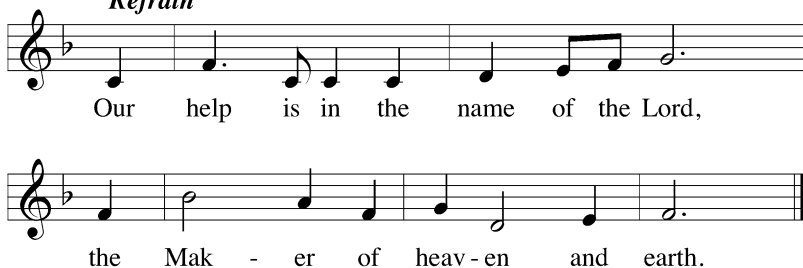
## **THE WORD**

### **First Lesson: Jeremiah 29:10-14**

*<sup>10</sup>This is what the LORD says. After seventy years have passed in Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious word to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to give you peace, not disaster, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call on me and come to pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>When you seek me, you will find me, when you will seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup>I will let you find me, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back from your exile. I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have sent you as exiles, declares the LORD. I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.*

# Psalm 124

## *Refrain*



## *Psalm Tone*



If the LORD had not been on our side—let Israel say—  
if the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us,  
when their anger flared against us,  
they would have swallowed us alive;

the flood would have engulfed us,  
the torrent would have swept over us,  
the raging waters  
would have swept us away.

## *Refrain*

Praise be to the LORD,  
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.  
We have escaped like a bird  
out of the fowler's snare;

the snare has been broken,  
and we have escaped.  
Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

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

## *Refrain*

## **Second Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-17;5:6-11**

<sup>12</sup>*Dear friends, do not be surprised by the fiery trial that is happening among you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you.*

<sup>13</sup>*Instead rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*

<sup>14</sup>*If you are insulted in connection with the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.* <sup>15</sup>*Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or as a meddler.* <sup>16</sup>*But if you suffer for being a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God in connection with this name.* <sup>17</sup>*For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. Now if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who disobey the gospel of God?*

<sup>6</sup>*Therefore humble yourselves under God's powerful hand so that he may lift you up at the appointed time.* <sup>7</sup>*Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.* <sup>8</sup>*Have sound judgment. Be alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.* <sup>9</sup>*Resist him by being firm in the faith. You know that the same kinds of sufferings are being laid on your brotherhood all over the world.*

<sup>10</sup>*After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you.* <sup>11</sup>*To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.*

## **Verse of the Day: John 14:18**

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you." Alleluia!*

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

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

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

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

### **Gospel Lesson: John 17:1-11a**

After Jesus had spoken these things, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup>For you gave him authority over all flesh, so that he may give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup>This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. <sup>4</sup>I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>Now, Father, glorify me at your own side with the glory I had at your side before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>"I revealed your name to the men you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me, and they have held on to your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup>For I gave them the words you gave me, and they received them. They learned the truth that I came from you. They believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>"I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All that is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine. And I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>I am no longer going to be in the world, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!



# 446 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense CW 21



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de - fense and my Sav - ior,  
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; I, too, un - to  
 3 No, too close - ly am I bound un - to him by  
 4 I am flesh and must re - turn un - to dust, whence  
 5 Glo - ri - fied, I shall a - new with this flesh then



now is liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence  
 life shall wak - en. End - less joy my Sav - ior gives;  
 hope for - ev - er; faith's strong hand the rock has found,  
 I am tak - en; but by faith I now dis - cern  
 be en - shroud - ed; in this bod - y I shall view



rests up - on the hope he's giv - ing, though the  
 shall my cour - age then be shak - en? Shall I  
 grasped it, and will leave it nev - er. E - ven  
 that from death I shall a - wak - en with my  
 God, my Lord, with eyes un - cloud - ed; in this



night of death be fraught still with man - y an anx - ious thought.  
 fear, or could the head rise and leave his mem - bers dead?  
 death now can - not part from its Lord the trust - ing heart.  
 Sav - ior to a - bide in his glo - ry, at his side.  
 flesh I then shall see Je - sus Christ e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Otto von Schwerin, 1616–1679; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; (st. 5): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, alt.  
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON TEXT: Jeremiah 29:10-14**  
**EXPECTATIONS AND PLANS**

**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** --*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.*

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Ceremony**  
**St. John's Lutheran School**  
**Class of 2023**



***Nathan Dux***



***Colton Hannasch***



***Alaina Mathis***



***Shaylen Pierce***



***Tasha Shadrick***

***Graduation Verse: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you. Isaiah 60:1***

***Congratulations and God's blessings, Graduates!!***

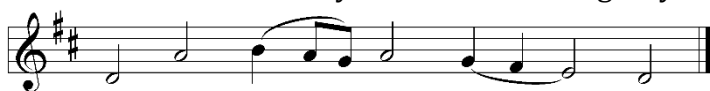
## PRAYER

### 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.

### BENEDICTION

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



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

## ***Final Hymn: School Song***

*The children in Grades K-8 will be leading us in this song, and all alumni of our school are invited to come up to the front of the church to sing along with the children. The words are printed below.*

### **God Bless Our School**

*1. Our Father, 'tis to Thee  
We bring this earnest plea  
God bless our school.  
Thy saving Word is here  
Fill us with holy fear  
Make this a place most dear  
God bless our school.*

*2. Our Savior from above  
Guide with Thy tender love  
Our Luth'ren school.  
Help us our work to do  
Teach us to e'er be true  
Our number large or few  
God bless our school.*

*3. Spirit of God so near  
Our guide and Comforter  
Rule in our school.  
Here purify each heart  
Faith, love, and hope impart  
Our sanctifier Thou art  
God bless our school.*

*4. Great God, blest Trinity  
Thou Who art one and three  
Bless this our school.  
Now hear us while we pray  
Take all our sins away  
Meet with us every day  
God bless our school.*

Service of The Word © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations taken from the Evangelical Heritage Version. Copyright by the Wartburg Project 2019. EHV (Evangelical Heritage Version) is a registered trademark of the Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. All music is used by permission under OneLicense.net #716538-A; CCLI Print License #5428473.

## ***This Week at St. John's: May 21, 2023***

### **SERVING US TODAY**

Greeters: Judith Quicker & Nancy Hagedorn

Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team

Altar Guild: Pat Strangfeld

Donating Bulletins: Bob & Bernice Cords for their anniversary

May Website: Bob & Bernice Cords in thankfulness

### **SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY**

Greeters: Donna Anding & Rosie Murphy

Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

### **~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~**

<b>TODAY</b>	8:00 AM Graduation Recognition 9:00 AM Worship/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Service (Gr. K-8 sing) 10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class Grades K-8 Track Meet, UW Stout
<b>MONDAY</b>	
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6:00 PM Worship Service
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	4:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM 3K/4K Graduation
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Last Day of School 8:20 AM Closing Chapel 11:00 AM Picnic Pot-Luck Lunch School Dismisses
<b>FRIDAY</b>	WI Lutheran Seminary Graduation
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Neillsville High School Graduation
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9:00 AM Worship Service

### **CHURCH NEWS**

***Sunday Bible Class:*** Today is the last day for Sunday Bible Class until September. Join us in the church basement as we continue our study of "10 Lies About God."

***Sunday School:*** Today is the last day of Sunday School until September. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Sunday School teachers: Julie Berry, Linda Biebert, Gloria Hamm, and Judy Trunkel. Thanks for your faithful service throughout the year!!

***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.

**Preschool Graduation:** Grades 3K and 4K will be having a special graduation ceremony this Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

**Last Day of School:** Our last day of school is this Thursday, May 25. That is a half-day only. We will have a closing chapel service that morning at 8:20, to which all are invited. We will have a picnic lunch at 11:00, to which all parents are invited, and school will dismiss after lunch.

**School Year Wrap-Up:** As the school year has almost come to an end, we want to take this opportunity to thank all the parents of our school children for their cooperation in helping this year run smoothly. We also thank the many volunteers we have had throughout the year. God has continued to bless us here at St. John's. We look forward to August!



**Student of the Week:** The "Student of the Week" this week is Zoey Hubing. Zoey is in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. She has made great improvements in getting her work done on time, and is always polite, friendly, and helpful to her teachers and fellow classmates. Congratulations Zoey!

**Student Teachers:** We congratulate Miss Sydney Stobb, who received a call to teach Kindergarten at Grace Christian Academy in Falls Church, Virginia. If you'd like to congratulate Miss Stobb personally on her graduation and assignment, her home address (for now) is 420 Dover Crescent Ct, Westland, MI 48185.

Miss Lisa Hoffer will be continuing her studies next year, working toward her master's degree. If you'd like to congratulate Miss Hoffer on her graduation, her home address is 935 Pineview Lane N, Plymouth, MN 55441.

**High School Graduation:** We would like to congratulate our members who will be graduating from high school:

**Keeghan Anding, Luke Dux, Shannon Ladd**

**Congratulations, Graduates!**

If we've missed someone who is graduating or if we have some college graduates, please let us know so we can acknowledge them as well. Let's keep these young people in our prayers and ask that God will continue to bless them and guide them.

**Meditations:** The new "Meditations," which start on May 28, are available in the entryway. Please consider a \$3.50 donation to help our GPS group cover the cost.

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

**WELS Weekly Prayer:** Amazing Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Dickinson, N.D. – Lord of the harvest, we thank you for providing Pastor Joel Prange to serve the new home mission Amazing Grace Lutheran in Dickinson, N.D. We ask you to bless the congregation's efforts as they connect with people in their community. Give them your strength for the challenges they face. Supply the courage they need to be faithful witnesses of your amazing grace in our crucified and risen Savior. Help them to remember that because you live their labor for you is never in vain. We pray this to the glory of your name. Amen.

**WELS Night at the Brewers:** Mark your calendars and plan to join thousands of WELS members for an evening at the ballpark on Friday, July 7 to watch the Brewers take on the Reds. Tickets for WELS members and guests are discounted up to 50% and are reserved all together in a block. Seating will be along the field outfield box, and cost is \$21/ticket.

A sign-up sheet is available in the entryway. **Deadline to order tickets at the reduced rate is June 9.** If we have a group of more than 20 people, we will order the tickets as a group to be seated together and save on service fees. If there are less than 20 people interested in going, individuals can order on their own. If you would like to go, please sign up by **Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** so we know how many are interested.

Don't forget to order your WELS Night at the Brewers t-shirt, with an all-new design for 2023, at [welsstore.net](http://welsstore.net)!

**Worship the Lord with Gladness:**

Sunday: 112; Tuesday: 16; Thursday: 96

**Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:**

Thankoffering Given last week:

\$6,498.27 (Home); \$570.00 (Missions)

Owed on Line of Credit: -0-



# TOGETHER



May 16, 2023

## Assignment of teachers and staff ministers at Martin Luther College

---

Last week, the synod's Assignment Committee met at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., to assign this year's teacher and staff ministry candidates. The Conference of Presidents makes up the Assignment Committee. The committee is advised by representatives of Martin Luther College, the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools, and the presidents of the two synodical prep schools.

This year there were 61 teacher candidates who could go anywhere. All of them were assigned. Forty candidates who were limited geographically as to where they could serve (mostly due to marriage) were assigned. Additional assignments of those limited geographically will be made in the coming weeks and months when it is determined where they will be living. Thirty-seven teacher candidates were assigned to return to their current place of service either for another year or permanently. The total number of candidates assigned was 138.

After the assignments were made, there are still 158 vacancies for teacher-trained workers. Of those, 114 had requested candidates through the assignment process. Four staff minister candidates were available for assignment; all four were assigned.


In addition, 37 men graduated from the preseminary program, and three men graduated with seminary certification. Most, if not all, of those 40 men will enroll at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., to continue their training for the pastoral ministry.

View the list of assignments online at [mlc-wels.edu](http://mlc-wels.edu).

As you view the list, you will see many one-year assignments. Assignments are made for one year for a number of reasons, including marriage plans, candidates assigned to duties outside of their specific training, candidates assigned as tutors or dorm supervisors, service in a foreign mission field, or local circumstances in schools. Many candidates assigned for one year will have their assignment made permanent either during the coming year or at next year's assignments.

We thank God for providing these workers who will go out into God's harvest field. We pray for God's blessing on their ministry.

The Assignment Committee will meet May 23 at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to assign pastor and vicar candidates. Vicar assignments will be announced Wed., May 24; pastor assignments will be announced Thurs., May 25. The commencement events and call services will be streamed live. Learn more at [wisluthsem.org](http://wisluthsem.org).

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

## 2023 humanitarian aid grants announced

---

**A**t its May 1, 2023, meeting, WELS Christian Aid and Relief approved humanitarian aid grants totaling \$702,390 for FY 23/24. WELS home missions will receive \$43,498 in assistance; \$658,892 will go to support world mission efforts. These are projects developed by WELS home and world missionaries to reflect Christ's compassion to the people of their communities and build relationships that lead to opportunities to share the gospel.

"Seven hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money, but I believe it is money well spent. These dollars assist our missionaries at home and abroad to reach out in compassion to hurting people and help them. That's reason enough for such an investment!" says Rev. Dan Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. "But these acts of kindness help to build trusting relationships and lead to many opportunities to share the good news of our Savior."

Major items include support for health clinics (including the Central Africa Medical Mission), borehole drilling to provide clean water, food for the hungry, warm clothes for widows and orphans, aid for legal immigrants, school supplies for underprivileged kids, education for refugees, scholarships for poor students, smokeless stoves, mosquito nets, vocational training, and many other forms of assistance.

Home missions receiving grants include:

- Foundation, Las Vegas, Nev.
- Hope, Toronto, Ont., Canada
- Shepherd of the Valley, Arvada, Colo.
- Living Hope, Commerce City, Colo.

- Christ, Denver, Colo.
- Carbon Valley, Firestone, Colo.
- The Vine, Hayden, Idaho
- Christ the Rock, Farmington, N.M.
- Living Hope, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- Amazing Grace, Amarillo, Tex.
- The Mission, Conroe, Tex.
- Christ Our Refuge, Hewitt, Tex.
- Christ the Rock, Hutto, Tex.
- Abiding Savior, Killeen, Tex.
- Divine Peace, Rockwall, Tex.
- Faith, Tyler, Tex.
- Our Savior, West San Antonio, Tex.

World Mission fields receiving grants include:

- Africa: Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda
- Asia: Indonesia, Thailand, and others
- Europe: Albania
- Latin America: Mexico

Learn more about WELS Christian Aid and Relief at [wels.net/relief](https://wels.net/relief). 

---

## 2023 *Book of Reports and Memorials* available online

---

**T**he 2023 *Book of Reports and Memorials* is now available online. This book summarizes the activities of each area of ministry over the last year and contains the proposed ministry financial plan for the next biennium. The information in the *Book of Reports and Memorials* will help guide the 400 delegates at WELS' 67th biennial convention, which is being held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich., July 31–Aug. 3, under the theme "Embrace the Cross—Anticipate the Crown."

"This theme reflects the biblical truth that Christians in this world live under the cross," says WELS President Rev.

Mark Schroeder. “We live under the cross in the sense that our relationship with God as his people was brought about by the sacrificial death of our Savior on the cross. Living under the cross also means that we recognize, as Jesus himself told us, that in this world God’s church will endure difficulties and trials but that all of those difficulties and trials are intended by God for our eternal good. And when we embrace the cross we can look forward with joyful anticipation to when we and all believers will receive the crown of life.”

A highlight of this year’s synod convention is the anticipated declaration and affirmation of fellowship with two Lutheran church bodies, one in Uganda and the other in Latin America.

Three memorials are also included in the *Book of Reports and Memorials*. A memorial is a formal request to the synod convention for specific action.

One printed copy of the *Book of Reports and Memorials* is being mailed to each delegate, congregation, and male called worker. These printed copies should arrive by the end of May.

To view the online version of the *Book of Reports and Memorials*, visit [welsconvention.net/boram](http://welsconvention.net/boram). 

## Celebration of ministry retreats held

In April, Grow in Grace, the institute for continuing education at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Mequon, Wis., hosted about 200 people in San Antonio, Texas, for Celebration of Ministry retreats for pastors celebrating


3, 10, 25, and 35 years since graduating from the seminary.

These retreats build relationships with ministry peers and offer encouragement through worship, Bible studies, workshops, and presentations. Bible study topics covered Psalms, Philippians, Nehemiah, and Colossians. Separate and joint workshops were offered for pastors and wives and covered topics such as time management, caring for others and yourself, focusing on your own gifts, and financial challenges and opportunities.

Though these workshops and Bible studies are a key part of the retreats, fellowship with classmates, worship services, and a beautiful location also play a part in the experience.

When Grow in Grace initially began the Celebration of Ministry retreats in 2013, only pastors and wives celebrating 10 years from graduation attended. In more recent years, the event has extended invitations to pastors and wives celebrating 3 years, 25 years, and 35 years since graduation. This year was the first year where Grow in Grace hosted repeat attendees from the class of 2013. This WLS class was the first class to attend when they were celebrating three years from graduation and were now invited back to celebrate at year 10. As one pastor shares, “San Antonio is a great location, and my wife and I were happy to return there a second time. The hotel is great, and its location is fantastic.”

The next Celebration of Ministry retreats are scheduled for April 3–5, 2024.

Learn more about Grow in Grace at [wisluthsem.org/grow-in-grace](http://wisluthsem.org/grow-in-grace). 



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit [wels.net/together](http://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.

### ***St. John's Lutheran Church & School 711 & 805 W 5<sup>th</sup> St., Neillsville, WI 54456***

#### **Contact Info**

Church & School Office: [stjohns1886@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns1886@gmail.com)  
715-743-2501

Tim Biebert, Pastor: [1fisheromen@gmail.com](mailto:1fisheromen@gmail.com)  
715-819-0456 (cell)  
715-743-3015 (home)

Mike Allard, Principal: [allardmj1@gmail.com](mailto:allardmj1@gmail.com)  
715-937-7534 (cell)

John Hagedorn, Chairman: [hagedornjohnw2@gmail.com](mailto:hagedornjohnw2@gmail.com)  
715-743-4653 (home)

Website: [www.stjohnsneillsville.com](http://www.stjohnsneillsville.com)

Facebook (church): [www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/)

Facebook (school): [www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/)

#### **Worship Schedule**

*Sunday-9:00 a.m. (Year-Round)*

*Tuesday-6:00 p.m. (After Easter through November)*