

***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.***

*I am  
the Way,  
the Truth, and  
the Life.*

*John 14:6*

***Easter 5  
May 7 & 9, 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 5. Our focus today: Jesus' resurrection is the heart and core of the Gospel.**

We are Here

*The church year begins here 2022*

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	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	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														
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								

## 343

## Christ Is the World's Light



1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none oth - er;  
 2 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none oth - er;  
 3 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none oth - er;  
 4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



Born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.  
 No one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.  
 Sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.  
 Give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



If we have seen him, we have seen the  
 Who else u - nites us, one with God the  
 He who re - deemed us reigns with God the  
 Give God the glo - ry, God with us, my



Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!  
 Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!  
 Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!  
 broth - er: Glo - ry to God on high!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, alt. © 1969 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.  
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Tune: CHRISTE SANCTORUM (10 11 11 6) *Antiphoner*, Paris, 1681.

**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:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

### LORD, HAVE MERCY

#### *Kyrie*

**M:** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

**M:** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

**M:** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

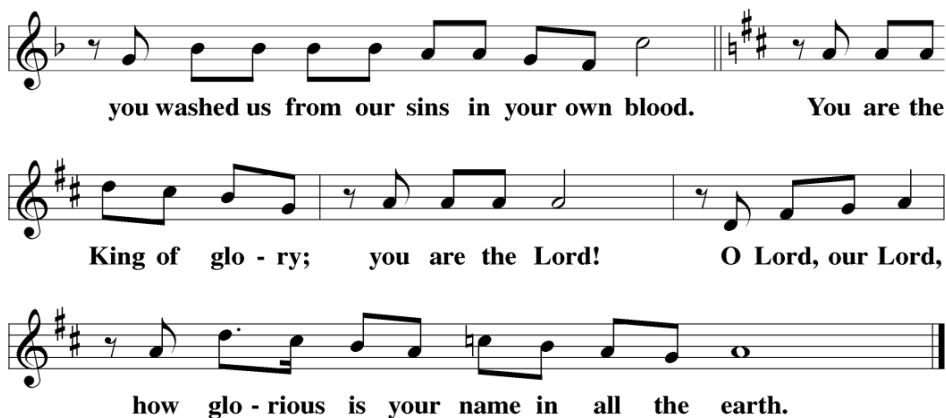
**M:** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

**M:** The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.





you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the  
King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

**M:** Let us pray.  
O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; 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.

### ***First Lesson: Acts 17:1-12***

*When Paul and Silas had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. <sup>2</sup>As was his custom, Paul went to the Jews, and on three Sabbath days he led them in a discussion from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. He also said, "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." <sup>4</sup>Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great number of God-fearing Greeks and more than a few of the prominent women.*

*<sup>5</sup>But the Jews became jealous and gathered from the marketplace some wicked men, who formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house and searched for Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the mob. <sup>6</sup>When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men, who have stirred up trouble all over the world, have come here too, <sup>7</sup>and Jason has welcomed them as guests! They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, Jesus!" <sup>8</sup>The crowd and the city officials were stirred up when they heard these things. <sup>9</sup>They took a security bond from Jason and the others and then let them go.*

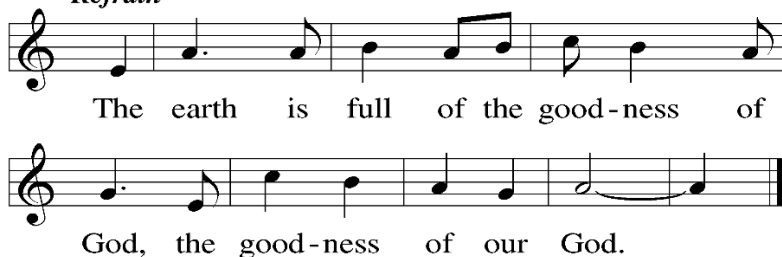
*<sup>10</sup>That same night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. <sup>11</sup>Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians. They received the word very eagerly and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these things were so.*

*<sup>12</sup>Many of them believed, along with more than a few prominent Greek women and men.*



## Psalm 33 CW 93

### Refrain



### Psalm tone



Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;\*  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

For the Word of the LORD is right and true;\*  
he is faithful in all he does.

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,\*  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

For he spoke, and it came to be;\*  
he commanded, and it stood firm. *Refrain*

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;\*  
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,\*  
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

The LORD loves righteousness and justice;\*  
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

**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: Marty Haugen. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,  
www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:4-10**

*<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, <sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it says in Scripture:*

*See, I lay a stone in Zion,*

*a chosen and precious cornerstone,*

*and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.*

*<sup>7</sup>Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:*

*The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,*

*<sup>8</sup>and, a stone over which they stumble*

*and a rock over which they fall.*

*Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.*

*<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

*<sup>10</sup>At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.*

## **Verse of the Day: John 14:6**

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life." 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 14:1-12**

*"Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know where I am going, and you know the way."*

*<sup>5</sup>"Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?"*

*<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."*

*<sup>8</sup>"Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that is enough for us."*

*<sup>9</sup>"Have I been with you so long," Jesus answered, "and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves.*

*<sup>12</sup>"Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.*



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## 514 *You Are the Way; through You Alone*

CW 21



- 1 You are the way; thro' you a - lone can we the Fa - ther find;
- 2 You are the truth; your Word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm,
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



in you, O Christ, has God re - vealed his heart and will and mind.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you nor death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.

Tune: The CL Psalmes of David, Edinburgh, 1615

Text and tune: Public domain

### **SERMON TEXT: Acts 17:1-12**

#### **SEE HOW THE GOSPEL WORKS**

- I. It brings some to faith in Jesus.**
- II. It causes others to get angry.**
- III. You can't stop it from spreading.**

## **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 may also fill out our guest register by the drinking fountain in the entryway.*

## 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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

**M:** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

**M:** Lift up your hearts.



**C:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**M:** Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

## *Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my 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."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves, each beginning with a treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men." The score includes various musical notations such as quarter notes, half notes, and rests.

**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.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:** 675 & 665

# 675 *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* CW 21



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
 2 Praise we him whose love di - vine gives his  
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, death's dread  
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, who has washed us in the tide  
 sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go  
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 thro' the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
 hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you  
 lie.  
 You have conquered in the fight,  
 you have brought us life and  
 light.  
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
 now no more the grave enthrall;  
 you have opened paradise,  
 and your saints in you shall rise.  
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
 This alone can sin destroy;  
 from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us  
 free,  
 newborn souls in you to be.  
 Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
 Savior, by whose death we live,  
 Spirit, guide through all our  
 days,  
 Three in One, your name we  
 praise.  
 Alleluia!

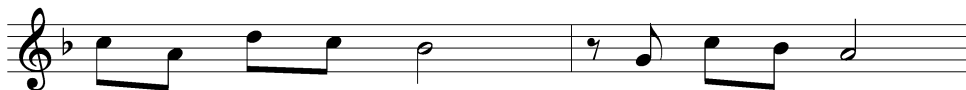
Text: tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.; Latin, c. 4th–10th cent., alt. 17th cent.  
 Tune: Kirchengeseng, Ivancice, 1566  
 Text and tune: Public domain

# 665 What Is This Bread

CW 21



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	that	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from	the	dead:	this	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	the	cup	of	grace
live	and	he	should	die	un -	der	the
Word	and	prom -	ise	clear,	in	mouth	and
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be -	lieve



this	life	we	take,	was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
brings	his	em -	brace	of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	why	have	you	not	for -	sak -	en
he	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pres -	ent	in	this
that	I	re -	ceive	his	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	his



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, b. 1946

Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, b. 1951

Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

## THANKSGIVING

### THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**M:** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**C:** his mercy endures forever.

**M:** Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**C:** We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**M:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

**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.



## 518 *Christ Be My Leader* CW 21



1 Christ be my lead - er by night as by day;  
 2 Christ be my teach - er in age as in youth,  
 3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife;



safe through the dark - ness, for he is the way. —  
 drift - ing or doubt - ing, for he is the truth. —  
 death can - not hold me, for he is the life. Nor



Glad - ly I fol - low, my fu - ture his care, —  
 Grant me to trust him; though shift - ing as sand, —  
 dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor sin and its stain can



dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
 doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
 touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Irish

Text: © 1964, ren. 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

Tune: Public domain

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# ***This Week at St. John's: May 7, 2023***

## **SERVING US TODAY**

Greeters: Donna Zank & Pat Strangfeld

Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Lynda Urban

Donating Bulletins: Randy Roehl in memory of Leo & Florence Wiesner's anniversary on May 9

May Website: Bob & Bernice Cords in thankfulness

## **SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY**

Greeters: Bob & Bernice Cords

Ushers: Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team

Altar Guild: Linda Biebert & Megan Allard

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

<b>TODAY</b>	9:00 AM Communion Service 10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30 AM Sunday School Teachers Meeting
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6:00 PM Communion Service
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:20 AM Chapel 4:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM FSJ
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 PM Choir
<b>FRIDAY</b>	6:00 PM Music, Lit & Skit Night
<b>SATURDAY</b>	MLC Graduation and Call Day
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9:00 AM Communion Service 10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

## **CHURCH NEWS**

***Communion:*** We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper today using the regular style of distribution (at the rail). Next Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's Supper using the continuous method of distribution.

***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.

**Ascension Worship:** We will be having a joint Ascension Day worship service with our fellow Christians from Globe and Christie on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. The service will be held here at 7:00 p.m. A joint choir will be singing for the service.

The celebration of Ascension has everything in it – Christmas, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, the Ascension itself, and the anticipation of Pentecost. Jesus has triumphed and entered into his glory by keeping all of his Word! His triumphant ascension assures us that he will always keep his Word.

Jesus' ascension also guarantees that he will be with us always. Jesus did it all for us. His triumph therefore is our triumph. How can we help but rejoice and be glad! Join us for this special service!

The Altar Guild will be serving supper in the school gym, beginning at 6:00 p.m. All are invited.

(Offerings given in your special Ascension Day envelopes will be split evenly between home and missions.)

**Altar Guild Meeting:** We will be having a short Altar Guild meeting right after church this morning to discuss the Ascension supper.

**Music, Lit, and Skit Night:** Our annual Music, Lit, and Skit Night will be held this Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the main part of the church. We hope many of you can join us.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation will take place during our worship service on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

**Last Day of School:** Our last day of school will be 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.

**Calls Returned:** "Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On April 11, we received calls to serve as teachers at St. John's in Bay City, Michigan. Since then, we have been prayerfully deliberating where we can best serve God's kingdom. Our Calls, both here in Neillsville and in Bay City, have been constantly in our thoughts throughout the past few weeks, and we've regularly asked God's guidance in helping us with this decision. We have decided to return the calls to teach at St. John's in Bay City. We are very thankful to all those who have reached out to us to share their thoughts on our ministry here at St. John's, and look forward to continuing to serve the Lord here in Neillsville along with you. God is good, all the time!

Serving you in Christ,"     Brandon and Ashley Leiterman

**Calendar:** May church calendars are available in the entryway.

**Membership Changes:** Brenda Schnabel was removed from membership at her request.

We welcome **Karen Smith** as a new communicant member. Karen recently completed adult instruction class, and her daughter Jenny attends our 4K. Let's make them feel welcome!

**Thank You:** "I am so grateful to everyone who prayed for me and sent cards during my hospital stay and recovery from surgery. God has certainly answered your prayers! I am slowly regaining my strength a little more each day and your well wishes and fervent prayers have been a wonderful boost. God bless you!"  
Linda Biebert

**WELS Weekly Prayer:** WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership – Lord Jesus, we praise you for the privilege you have given to your Church to be your body of believers on earth that shares your love and salvation with the world. Fill us with your Spirit to direct our efforts. We thank you for this year's WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership where 1,300 people enjoyed Christian fellowship and the sharing of ministry ideas. We ask you to equip us as your people—called workers and lay people, men and women, young and old, and from various cultural backgrounds—as we all share your grace and truth as the perfect solution to the pain and hopelessness in our sinful world. 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)!

**Central Africa Medical Mission:** Several copies of a letter from the LWMS Spring Rally giving updates on the Central Africa Medical Mission in Zambia and Malawi is available on the table in the entryway. If you're interested, please pick one up.

**Worship the Lord with Gladness:**

Sunday: 100; Tuesday: 5

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

Thankoffering Given last week:

\$5,095.25 (Home); \$412.00 (Missions)

Owed on Line of Credit: -0-

# TOGETHER



**WELS**  
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

May 2, 2023

## Synodical Council holds spring 2023 meeting

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The Synodical Council (SC) met last week for its spring meeting.

The SC reviewed financial results for the synod and its subsidiaries. The results are very positive due to increased gifts and lower-than-planned spending, which has led to increased levels of special fund reserves. We thank God for moving his people and WELS congregations to give generously in support of the work we do together as a synod.


The SC approved the support forecast (an estimate of the financial support that will be available to support the synod's mission and ministry) for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025. On the basis of the support forecast, the SC approved the ministry financial plan that will be recommended to the synod convention this summer. Expenditure levels are anticipated to be \$88.7 million for Fiscal Year 2024 and \$90.9 million for Fiscal Year 2025.

The SC is recommending a 2.5 percent increase in salary for called and hired workers for each year of the coming biennium. The SC will continue to review the potential need for adjustments to the salary matrix throughout the biennium.

The SC encouraged the synod leadership to explore alternate funding models for capital projects to enable projects currently under consideration to move forward more quickly. Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis., and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., were encouraged to determine the scope of planned projects and to begin efforts to seek financial support for those projects once the scope is determined. The SC authorized the establishment of a Capital Projects Fund to support current and future capital projects of the synod.

The SC made the following appointments or reappointments:

- WELS Foundation board: Mr. Scott Neitzel, Mr. John Pahmeier, Mr. David Wendland, Mr. James Brenn
- WELS Church Extension Fund board: Mr. Joel Kock
- WELS Retirement Commission: Mr. James Hahm, Mr. Thomas Medema
- WELS VEBA Commission: Mr. Robert Bullens, Mr. Kyle Koltz, Mr. Daniel Markgraf, Rev. Joel Sauer
- Northwestern Publishing House board: Rev. Justin Dauck
- Accounting Oversight Committee: Mr. William Schultz
- Advisory member of the SC: Mr. Jim Rademan, associate coordinator of Congregational Services

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder 



### ***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)