# 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.

To seph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"

Genesis 50:19

Fentecost 17 Sep 24 & 26, 2023

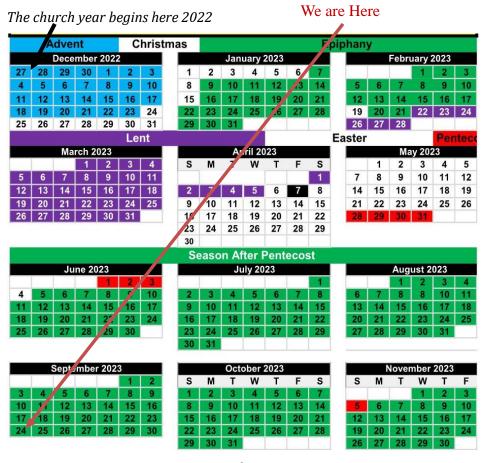
#### "Welcome Visitors & Members!"

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.

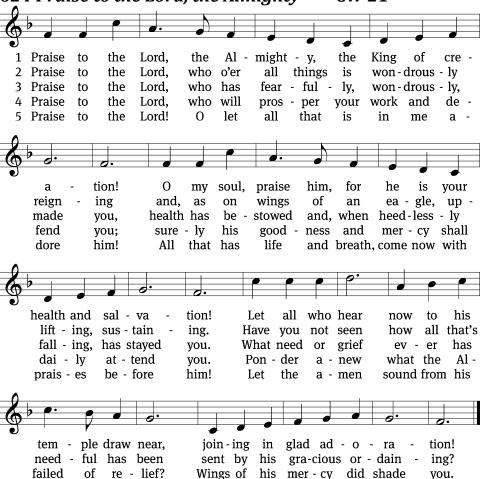
For further assistance in worship and information on our church, please see the back cover.

**Pentecost Season:** After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.

Today is Pentecost 17. Our focus today: The Church forgives as God forgives.



# 624 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty CW 21



as with his love he

for - ev - er

glad - ly

be-friends

a - dore

vou.

him!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Joachim Neander, 1650–1680 Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs, Stralsund, 1665, alt Text and tune: Public domain

do

a - gain;

can

might - y

peo - ple

# Service of The Word CW 93

- **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 listen to:

Grades K-8 sing "You Are My All in All"

(words are printed on page 5)

- 1. You are my strength when I am weak, You are the treasure that I seek; You are my all in all.
  Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool; You are my all in all.
  Jesus, Lamb of God,
  Worthy is Your name!
  Jesus, Lamb of God,
  Worthy is Your name!
- Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
  Rising again I bless Your name;
  You are my all in all.
  When I fall down, You pick me up,
  When I am dry, You fill my cup;
  You are my all in all.
  Jesus, Lamb of God,
  Worthy is Your name!
  Jesus, Lamb of God,
  Worthy is Your name!

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C: Amen.** (spoken)

#### THE WORD

#### First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

<sup>16</sup>They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, <sup>17</sup>'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

 $^{18}$ His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

<sup>19</sup>Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. <sup>21</sup>Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

## Psalm 103 CW 93



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



Praise the LORD, <u>O</u> my soul;\* all my inmost being, praise his <u>ho</u>ly name.

He forgives <u>all</u> your sins\* and heals all your dis<u>eases</u>;

he redeems your life <u>from</u> the grave\* and crowns you with love and com<u>pas</u>sion. *Refrain* 

The LORD is compassionate and <u>gra</u>cious,\* slow to anger, abound<u>ing</u> in love.

He does not treat us as our <u>sins</u> deserve\* or repay us according to our in<u>iq</u>uities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,\* so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is <u>from</u> the west,\*
so far has he removed our transgressions <u>from</u> us. **Refrain** 

As a father has compassion on his <u>chil</u>dren,\* so the LORD has compassion on those who <u>fear</u> him;

for he knows how <u>we</u> are formed,\*
he remembers that we are dust.

Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;\* the wind blows over it and it is gone.

But the LORD'S love is with those who <u>fear</u> him\* from everlasting to ever<u>lasting</u>.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son\* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the beginning,\*

is now, and will be forever. Amen. Refrain

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

# Second Lesson: Ephesians 4:29-5:2

<sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. <sup>32</sup>Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us. Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## Verse of the Day: Romans 15:4

Alleluia! Whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. Alleluia!



# Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup>"Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, 'Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!' <sup>27</sup>The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

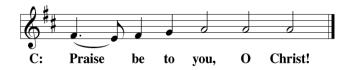
<sup>28</sup>"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

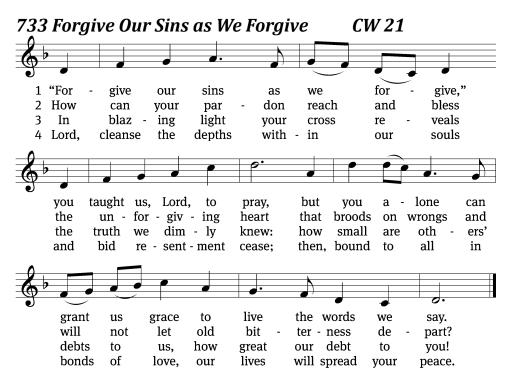
<sup>29</sup>"So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!' <sup>30</sup>But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

<sup>31</sup>"When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

<sup>32</sup>"Then his master called him in and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

<sup>35</sup>"This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart."





Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987, alt.

Tune: A Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, Harrisonburg, 1820, ed. Ananias Davisson

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Tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: Genesis 50:15-21 "AM I IN THE PLACE OF GOD?"

- I. NO, I'M GOD'S TOOL FOR SAVING LIVES.
- II. NO, I'M TOO FOR FREEING SLAVES.

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING & WELS CONNECTION -- The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry, but please use this QR code to fill out a short form giving us a digital record

of your attendance.

Visitors can also sign our guest register in the entryway by the drinking fountain.

#### **PRAYER**

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**

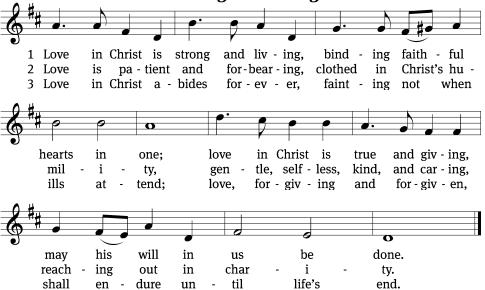
**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.







Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

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# This Week at St. John's: Sep 24, 2023 SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Judith Quicker & Nancy Hagedorn

Ushers: Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team

Altar Guild: Pat Strangfeld

**Donating Bulletins:** Pat Strangfeld

September Website: Ray & Sharon Wetzel in thankfulness for

our Savior

# SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Donna Anding & Rosie Murphy

Ushers: Team 3-Dick Urban's team

Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

# ~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

**TODAY** 9:00 AM Worship Service

Gr. K-8 sing

10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 3:00 PM Baby Shower for Leitermans

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

2:00-4:00 Shut-In Visits

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

6:00 PM Worship Service

**WEDNESDAY** 8:20 AM Chapel

1:30 PM Shut-In Visit

3:45 PM Confirmation Class

**THURSDAY** 2:30 PM Adult Instruction Class

4:00 PM Bible Study

5:30 PM Adult Instruction Class

7:00 PM Choir

**NEXT SUNDAY** 9:00 AM Communion Service

10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30 AM Sunday School Teachers Mtg

# CHURCH NEWS

**Sunday Bible Class:** Join us in the church basement today after the worship service as we continue our study on "10 Lies About God." Our specific focus will be "I Don't Need the Bible or Worship to Have a Relationship With God." All of you are invited to attend.

**Sunday School:** Sunday School classes will be held today from 10:15-11:30 for children age 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Grades 1-8 will meet in the school; preschool and Kindergarten will meet in the church basement. All children are welcome!

**Baby Shower:** We will be holding a baby shower for Mr. & Mrs. Leiterman this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in the school gym. All are invited. Cake and punch will be served. If you would like to bring a gift, the Leitermans are registered at Target and Amazon, or could use diapers size 1 and up.

**Thursday Bible Study:** Please join us this Thursday at 4:00 in the church proper as we continue our study of the book of Romans.

**Communion Next Sunday:** Next Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's Supper using the regular method of distribution (at the rail).

**Gas/Gift Card Collection:** Since our student teacher, Mr. Bryce Marohn, is driving back and forth every day from Eau Claire, we would like to take a collection of gas/gift cards to help him cover some of his travel expenses. Gift cards or cash can be dropped off in the school office. Thanks!

**Mission Fest:** Our Fall Mission Festival will be held on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Jeff Mahnke, Western Wisconsin District Mission Board Chairman.

Pastor Mahnke will be giving a special presentation after church on the  $15^{th}$  on Home Missions in place of our regular Bible Class. We look forward to his visit.

**Fall Dinner:** Our annual Fall Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 15. Please fill out the donation sheet in your bulletins if you are able to help out. Thanks!

**Flag Football Games:** We will have our first flag football games on Monday, September  $25^{th}$ , here at home. There will be three games, starting at 4:00. We will play in the 4:00 game (vs. St. Mark) and the 6:00 game (vs. Messiah). Come and cheer for the Hornets!

**Volleyball Games:** We have home games this week Tuesday and Thursday. Please see details below.

<u>Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup></u>: We will play at Home vs. St. Paul. This will be a mixed B & A team game, which will start at 4:30.

<u>Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup></u>: We have home games vs. Messiah. B Team plays at 5:00, and the A Team plays at 6:00.

Come and cheer for the Hornets!

**Student of the Week:** The student of the week is Maria Backaus. Maria is in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. She consistently sets a good example, is a hard worker, is friendly, and is a good role model for her fellow classmates. **Congratulations Maria!** 

**Hospitalized:** Jeanne Stiemke has been moved to the Rehabilitation and Living Center in Owen. Ginny Meier is on hospice care at the Rehabilitation & Living Center in Owen. Let's keep them in our prayers.

**Special Gifts:** \$95.00 was given to the ELC in memory of Mary Sternitzky (Mark Sternitzky's mother). Thank you!

Seven Tips for Making the Worship Service Your Own: On the table in the entryway you will find a stack of booklets titled "Seven Tips for Making the Worship Service Your Own." Inside you will find tips that may be helpful to you during worship, and on the back cover is a page for you to take notes during the worship service about things you heard that were especially meaningful to you or that you would like to think about more during the week. If you're interested, please feel free to pick up a booklet. We will keep an eye on how many are left and make more if we run low. We hope the booklets will be useful.

**Sink:** The old kitchen sink and faucet that was removed in the parsonage remodeling project is available for anyone who may have a use for it. If interested, please talk to John Hagedorn.

Calendars: October calendars are available in the entryway.

**Playground Fencing:** The new fencing around the playground was installed this past week. There are some extra metal posts and other fencing parts that were left over from the old fence. If anyone could use any of these, you may have them free of charge. If you'd like to take a look at what's left, stop by the school office any time during the week.

WELS Weekly Prayer: Home mission in Panama Beach, Fla. – Savior Jesus, you call us to go and make disciples of all nations. We thank you for leading the Board for Home Missions to approve nine new mission requests earlier this year. We pray specifically for the new home mission efforts in Panama City Beach, Fla. Bless the core group from Amazing Grace, Panama City, as they seek to connect with the growing population in their area to pursue multi-site ministry. Use their gospel message, by the Spirit's power, to bring more people into your kingdom. Amen.

# **Worship the Lord with Gladness:**

Sunday: 128; Tuesday: 13

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

Thankoffering Given Last Sunday: \$7,659.35 (Home); \$436.00 (Missions)

# **TOGETHER**



September 19, 2023

# Board for Home Missions approves tenth new mission start for 2023

ast week the Board for Home Missions met for its fall meetings and Lapproved one new start and four enhancement requests. This brings the total new mission starts this year to 10 (not to mention the approved enhancements), which is on pace with our synod's goal of starting 100 new mission churches and enhancing 75 existing ministries from 2023-2033.

- Buffalo, Wyo. (new start): A group of 27 WELS members living in the Buffalo area have been worshiping weekly in the local civic center since March 2020, led by the pastor from Lord of Lords in Casper, Wyo.
- Mount Calvary, Redding/Anderson, Calif. (enhancement): Home Missions is providing financial support for Mount Calvary, a multi-site ministry, to call a staff minister to assist with evangelism and youth/family ministry at the Anderson site.
- . Christ the King, Palm Coast, Fla. (enhancement): Christ the King will receive short-term Home Missions support to call a campus pastor to reach out to the 125 students with no church home at their growing Christ the King Academy.
- Hope, Deerfield, Wis. (unsubsidized): Hope in Deerfield began outreach and worship in fall 2021. Unsubsidized mission status gives them access to grants from Home Missions and WELS Church Extension Fund (WELS CEF) as well as support from their district mission board and mission counselor.
- Cross of Christ, Las Cruces, N.M. (unsubsidized): Cross of Christ started in a member's home 11 years ago. The congregation has 73 members and owns land along a major access road where most of the city's new development is taking place and where hundreds of young families are moving.

As district mission boards and mission counselors are looking for new places to start churches and enhance ministries, WELS members have responded to help support this gospel outreach goal with their offerings. Since starting this initiative, more than 1,500 members have contributed more than \$1.7 million to help launch new home missions. Thanks be to God! Thank you to all those who have contributed toward this effort of boldly taking the gospel to people in new locations throughout the country.

Learn more about these new starts and enhancements and read updates from home missions that were approved in spring at wels100in10.net.

Serving with you in Christ, WELS President Mark Schroeder #

# Using The Foundation to reach the unchurched

The Foundation, a free worship planning resource developed and offered by WELS Congregational Services, is designed to assist congregations with outreach in their communities.

By using the pre-planned worship resources, busy pastors will have more time to spend visiting prospective members and interacting with their communities.

The worship plans have also been carefully constructed to be accessible to first-time guests. The orders of service and hymns, while feeding the faithful, will also bless those new to Lutheran worship.

"Perhaps most importantly, it is hoped *The Foundation* resources will encourage members to invite their unchurched friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join them for worship. The use of themes for worship series might mean a member brings someone who is struggling with a particular issue in their life or who may have expressed interest in a topic that will be discussed in an upcoming series," says Rev. Eric Roecker, administrator for WELS Commission on Evangelism, part of WELS Congregational Services.

To assist with this outreach, a promotional video is produced for each series. The videos are specifically produced with the unchurched in mind, using language, images, music, etc., that unchurched people could understand

and relate to. Roecker suggests some ways the videos might be used:

- Show the video for an upcoming series after worship for two to three weeks prior to the start of the series. Not only will it prepare your people, but it might also make them think of someone they could invite to join them.
- In certain settings, the video could be shown as an introduction to the sermon each week. This repetition would help tie the series together in the minds of worshipers.
- Post the videos on all of your congregation's social media pages.
   You never know who might see it and be intrigued enough to join you.
- Share the videos with your members in the weeks leading up to each series so they can share them with unchurched acquaintances. It's an easy way for them to make the invite.

Access all The Foundation resources at welscongregationalservices.net/ foundation-yr-a.

Also, don't forget to get Christmas outreach materials! Christmas outreach postcards and other materials are available from Echt Printing to help congregations reach their neighbors, inviting them to Christmas worship. The materials feature *The Foundation* Christmas theme for 2023. The deadline to order is Oct. 24.

Praise and Proclaim is also offering assistance to congregations with digital evangelism efforts. The deadline to sign up is Oct. 27.



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)

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

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Facebook (church): <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/">www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/</a></a>
<a href="https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/">www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/</a>

### Worship Schedule

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