


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



The Kingdom
of God is here.

MARK 1:15

Epiphany 2
January 21, 2024

629 O God from God, O Light from Light CW 21



1 O God from God, O Light from Light, O Prince of
 2 For deep in proph - ets' sa - cred page, and grand in
 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, that death of
 4 Then sing to Christ a might - y song; ex - tol his



Peace and King of kings, to you in heav - en's
 po - ets' wing - ed word, slow - ly in type, from
 pain mid hate and scorn— these all are past, and
 name, his mer - cies tell! Sing, heav'n - ly hosts, your



glo - ry bright the song of praise for - ev - er rings.
 age to age the na - tions saw their com - ing Lord;
 now a - bove he reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.
 praise pro - long, and all on earth, your an - them swell!



To him who sits up - on the throne, the Lamb once
 till through the deep Ju - de - an night rang out the
 Lift up your heads, you heav'n - ly gates! So sang his
 All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain! For - ev - er



slain but raised a - gain, be all the glo - ry
 song, "Good will to men!" What an - gels sang in
 hosts, un - heard by men. Lift up your heads, for
 let the song as - cend! To Christ the King, en -



he has won, all thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.
 heav'n - ly light re - ech - oes now, "Good will!" A - men.
 you he waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.
 throned to reign, all glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

Text: John Julian, 1839–1913, abr., alt.
 Tune: Johann Störl's . . . Schlag- Gesang- Und Noten-Buch, Stuttgart, 1744
 Text and tune: Public domain

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 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, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

THE WORD

First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5,10

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.”

³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh just as the word of the LORD had commanded. Now Nineveh was a great city to God. It required a three-day walk. ⁴Jonah walked through the city for a day, and he called out, “Forty more days and Nineveh is going to be overthrown!”

⁵The men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.

¹⁰When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

¹⁴For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.

¹⁶As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. ¹⁷So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! ¹⁸And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Verse of the Day: Matthew 4:23

Alleluia! Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease. 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: Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. ¹⁵“The time is fulfilled,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

¹⁶As Jesus was going along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen.

¹⁷Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately Jesus called them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

743 *I Hear the Savior Calling*

CW 21



1 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! The gos - pel comes to me;
 2 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He leads a soul to me,
 3 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He gives this charge to me:
 4 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He chang - es hearts for me;
 5 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! His call has ur - gen - cy;



my eyes, once closed in blind - ness, are o - pened now to see
 a soul in bit - ter an - guish, one need - ing to be free.
 to serve the best I'm a - ble, what - e'er the call may be.
 from door to door I wit - ness to share my Sav - ior's plea.
 each mo - ment souls are dy - ing, soon comes e - ter - ni - ty.



that I my - self was help - less to live e - ter - nal - ly,
 The gift I have to of - fer is Christ, my Lord's de - cree
 Thus hand in hand with oth - ers who share the gos - pel key
 Yet noth - ing can be add - ed, no word on bend - ed knee,
 And so, my pre - cious Sav - ior, this is my hum - ble plea:



but, dy - ing, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me!
 that all have been for - giv - en; my Sav - ior calls for me!
 we spread the gos - pel ti - dings; my Sav - ior calls for me!
 be - yond the sim - ple gos - pel; my Sav - ior calls for me!
 pre - pare me for my mis - sion, for you are call - ing me!

Text: John C. Lawrenz, b. 1943

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–1874

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Tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: Mark 1:14-20

JESUS' KINGDOM--THE HALLMARK OF HIS EPIPHANY

- I. THIS IS A STRANGELY INVISIBLE KINGDOM**
- II. WITH STRANGELY VISIBLE WORKERS.**

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.



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

470

Praise to You and Adoration



1 Praise to you and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing; Com - fort me in



Son of God, Who, to serve your own cre - a - tion,
pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing



Came to share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I
Be with me through - out my life. Give me great - er



nev - er may From your fold or pas - tures stray,
love for you, And my faith and hope re - new



But with zeal and joy ex - ceed - ing
In your birth, your life, and pas - sion,



Fol - low where your steps are lead - ing.
In your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1643–1703; tr. composite.

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

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This Week at St. John's: Jan 21, 2024

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Ron & Linda Rogus

Ushers: Team 3-Dick Urban's team

Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

Donating Bulletins: Ritajane Moeller

January Website: Henry & Julie Berry

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Betty Nemitz & Dianne Buettner

Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team

Altar Guild: Jean Goetz & Ashley Leiterman

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TODAY | 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class |
| MONDAY | 9:00-11:00 Shut-In Visits 2:00-4:00 Shut-In Visits |
| WEDNESDAY | 8:20 AM Chapel 3:45 PM Confirmation Class |
| THURSDAY | 4:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir |
| NEXT SUNDAY | 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Grades 4-8 sing at Globe 10:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Annual Voters Meeting |

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Last Sunday: 71

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given Last Sunday:

\$5,153.05 (Home); \$636.00 (Missions)

Needed per week for Home: \$8,700.00.

CHURCH NEWS

Bible Class: Join us in the church basement after the worship service as we continue our study of 1 Peter.

Sunday School: Sunday School will be held today after the worship service.

Band Practice: Because of scheduling conflicts, we will have church band practice on Tuesday, January 30th instead of February 6th.

Thursday Bible Study: Join us in the school conference room this Thursday at 4:00 as we continue our study of the book of Romans.

Lent 2024

The overall theme for the Lenten services for 2024 is **"God on Trial."** This series takes us back to the moments when God was literally on trial before men in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes, we find forgiveness for us and all people, love for our enemies, strength for our faith, and courage to testify to the truth.

We will have three pastors in the Lenten rotation again this year, Pastor Biebert, Pastor Wilke from Globe/Christie, and Pastor Naumann from Trinity, Marshfield. On the weeks when supper is served, serving begins at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym, and all are invited to that as well. The service schedule is below.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14: 7:00 p.m. communion service

Wednesday, Feb. 21: 7:00 p.m. service (GPS serves supper)

Wednesday, Feb. 28: 7:00 p.m. service (Choir/Bells serve)

Wednesday, Mar. 6: 7:00 p.m. service (FSJ serves supper)

Wednesday, Mar. 13: 7:00 p.m. service (LIGHTS serve supper)

Wednesday, Mar. 20: 7:00 p.m. service (Pioneers serve supper)

Maundy Thursday, Mar. 28: 7:00 p.m. communion service

Good Friday, Mar. 29: 1:00 p.m. service

Easter Sunday, Mar. 31: 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. communion services

Baptism: Hazel Rosalynn Glassbrenner (9/26/23), daughter of Mike & Rianna Glassbrenner, was baptized here in a private ceremony this past Thursday evening. We congratulate Mike & Rianna and rejoice with them at their daughter's rebirth as a precious child of God.

Basketball: We have home basketball games tomorrow. We play Messiah of Eau Claire. The B Team plays at 5:30 and the A Team plays at 6:30. Come and cheer for the Hornets!

We travel to St. Peter in Schofield on Tuesday. The B Team plays at 4:30, and the A Team plays at 5:30.

We have home basketball games on Thursday. We play St. Paul of Menomonie. The B Team plays at 4:00, and the A Team plays at 5:00. Come and cheer for the Hornets!

Family Tubing Outing: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Globe is sponsoring a family tubing outing at Bruce Mound on Saturday, February 3 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. All are invited. Please bring a dish to pass.

Care Packages: Our LIGHTS group will be packing 7 care packages to be sent to college students and military personnel. Donations of items to include in the packages are needed and welcomed.

Some ideas for donations could include: Kleenex, pens, post-it notes, hand lotion, microwave popcorn, fruit snacks, candy bars, raisins, chips, pudding, dried fruit, cookies, tea, dried soup mix, gum, soap, coffee, etc. Anything that can be individually wrapped works well; the list is almost endless. Cash donations for postage are also needed. Donations can be placed in the entryway.

This is a nice way to show our young people that they are in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks for your assistance!

The boxes will be packed up on Monday, February 5.

Winter Carnival: Our church's HIS Group (Hands in Service) is sponsoring a children's carnival on Saturday, February 24th as part of Neillsville's Winter Carnival. The children's carnival will be held here in our gym from 11:00-1:00. There will be bounce houses, a cake walk, face painting, balloon animals, a giant slide, concessions, crafts...activities for all ages! Parents are expected to stay while their children are here. Cost will be \$5.00 per child (ages 1-12). Infants and ages 13+ are Free! Cost for the cake walk is \$1. We hope many parents and children can attend!!

Volunteers are needed to help with the carnival. We also need bakers who would be willing to bake cakes or cupcakes for the cake walk. If you would be able to help, please talk to Mrs. Allard or contact the school office. Thanks!

Position Available: St. John's Early Learning Center is NOW HIRING! We're looking specifically for a full-time caregiver for our infant room but position options are flexible. Must be at least 18 years old, organized, a good communicator, and ready to share Jesus's love with little ones! Previous experience working with children is great but not required. We're happy to help with training. Stop by the St. John's school office or contact Megan Allard 715-937-7535 or preschool@stjohnsneillsville.com if interested.

If interested please contact us asap. Thanks for considering!



Student of the Week: The student of the week is Lily Harder. Lily is in 2nd Grade. She is respectful and polite, participates in class, and has been doing a good job on her homework, slowing down and getting it done well. Congratulations Lily!

FIC: It is time to renew our subscription. If you would like to continue receiving the "Forward In Christ" magazine here at church or would like to try it for the first time, cost is \$12.00/year.

You will find a "Forward In Christ" sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway. Please sign up on the sheet; money should be turned in as soon as possible. Please place your payment in a plain envelope marked "FIC." You can put that in the offering basket or drop it off in the school office.

Annual Voters Meeting: *Our annual voters meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28. Reports for the voters meeting are available in the entryway. Please feel free to pick one up and read through it in preparation for the meeting.*

Offering Statements: *You may have already noticed that 2023 offering statements are available in the entryway. If you have any questions, contact the office.*

Christian Life Resources: *You may have noticed an offering envelope in your boxes for Christian Life Resources (CLR). CLR is affiliated with the Wisconsin Synod, and their mission is to use "Life and Family issues as bridges to convey the love of God and to share the message of salvation through Christ. We love because He first loved us." If you'd like to learn more about CLR, you can visit their website:*

<https://christianliferesources.com/>

Large Truck or Trailer Needed: *A collection of clothes and household goods is being taken to raise additional funds for the school bathroom project. A large truck or trailer is needed to haul collected items to Eau Claire. It would be needed for approximately three days, possibly in May, but date and time frame are flexible depending on when the vehicle or trailer would be available. Contact Becca Biebert (507-766-1159) or Linda Biebert (715-819-0455) for more details.*

Financial Presentation: DVDs of Mr. Allard's financial presentation given on January 7th have been made available in the church entryway, along with copies of the sheet handed out to those who attended. If you know of a fellow member who was not able to attend the presentation, please feel free to pick up a DVD and information sheet and get it to them. It's very important that all members have a chance to be informed about this. We have also sent out an email to all members for whom we have email addresses with links to view the information online.

The presentation and accompanying documents can also be viewed from our website. Go to the following link: www.stjohnsneillsville.com/church and you will see the links for the video presentation and the handout.

Call Received: "My dear members of St. John's,

This past Tuesday evening, January 16th, I received a Divine Call from Christus Lutheran Church in Delavan, WI to be their next Pastor. I must say that came as a complete surprise, especially at this stage in my life. This means that I now hold two Calls, as I am still called to serve you here at St. John's.

Needless to say, I am in need of your loving and honest input as to how best I can serve the Lord and His Kingdom with the humble and limited gifts I still have. Wherever I serve the Lord as Pastor, I want to be useful in and not hinder the spread of His Word.

Christus Lutheran Church is in a rural setting, outside the city of Delavan. It has a membership of 117 souls. (There is no Lutheran Elementary School.) As soon as more details regarding this Call to Christus are available, I will be talking with the members and leadership as to their expectations.

Please feel free to talk with me personally. Also, may I please ask that you talk with our gracious God, praying for Him to give proper guidance in this matter.

As always, but especially now, the words of John the Baptist regarding his position in the Kingdom of God and his relationship to Jesus ring true for me: "He must become greater; I must become less." (John 3:30)

Continuing to join you in service to Jesus," Pastor Biebert

WELS Weekly Prayer: *Lutheran Schools – Loving Shepherd, we want to do our very best when teaching your saving Word to our children. Guide Melanie Giddings, whom our church body called as the coordinator for a new theology curriculum, and the over 20 educators working with her, as they develop the focus of the curriculum. We ask you to bless this Christian education project so that our church body can, as soon as possible, train children ages infant through high school to be your disciples in today’s world. Amen.*

Virtual Forward In Christ Bible Study: *Join “Forward in Christ” for its first live Bible study series! Bible study author Greg Lyon will lead a study on selected Tuesdays of each month from January to June. The study will examine six scriptural truths in which we, as Christians, put our trust. Through teaching and discussion, Lyon will lead Bible study attendees in considering how each of these truths impacts our lives in tangible ways.*

Each study begins at 7 p.m. Central Time. Topics are listed below:

What if it's true that . . .

- *Jan. 23: God made mankind in his image*
- *Feb. 20: You are a sinner*
- *March 26: God wants your broken heart*
- *April 30: You are forgiven*
- *May 28: You are a child of God*
- *June 25: You are free*

You can register for the virtual Bible studies online by going to:

<https://forwardinchrist.net/online-study/>

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 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456

Contact Info

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715-743-2501

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715-819-0456 (cell)
715-743-3015 (home)

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

John Hagedorn, Chairman: hagedornjohnw2@gmail.com
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)