

***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.**

*The people were amazed  
at his teaching, because  
he taught them as one  
who had authority.*

*Mark 1:22*

*Epiphany 3  
January 28, 2024*

# "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.

**Epiphany Season:** The word epiphany means to reveal or make known. The Greek origin of the word has the picture of shining a light upon something, lighting it up. Epiphany is the season of the church year that clearly reveals Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the only Savior of the world. During this season our attention is on getting to know Jesus, who he is and how he works.

**Today is Epiphany 3. Our focus: Jesus' Epiphany -- Jesus' Epiphany -- See His absolute authority!**

The church year begins here 2023

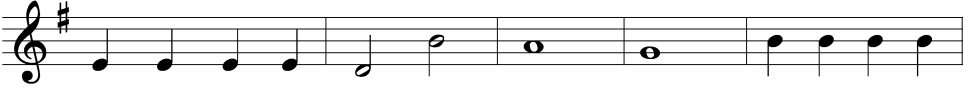
We are Here

Advent								Christmas				Epiphany												Lent						
December 2023												January 2024						February 2024												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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Lent								Easter				Pentecost																		
March 2024								April 2024						May 2024																
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Season After Pentecost																														
June 2024								July 2024						August 2024																
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September 2024								October 2024						November 2024																
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29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	

# 917 God Himself Is Present CW 21



1 God him - self is pres - ent: let us now a - dore him  
2 God him - self is pres - ent: hear the harps re - sound - ing;  
3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, pu - ri - fy my spir - it,



and with awe ap - pear be - fore him. God is in his  
see the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it. Like the ho - ly



tem - ple, all with - in keep si - lence, hum - bly kneel in  
ho - ly!" hear the hymn as - cend - ing, songs of saints and  
an - gels, wor - ship - ing be - fore you, may I cease - less -



deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone on his throne  
an - gels blend - ing. Bow your ear to us here:  
ly a - dore you. All my days shall my praise



is our God and Sav - ior; praise his name for - ev - er!  
hear, O Christ, the prais - es that your Church now rais - es.  
rise to you in heav - en for the grace you've giv - en!

Text: tr. John Miller, 1756–1790, alt.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760–1835; Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697–1769, abr.

Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

Text and tune: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

***Confession***

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and  
actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

**Amen.**

# *Lord, Have Mercy*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



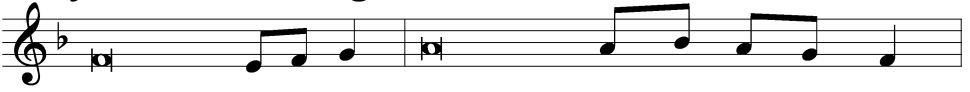
**Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**A - men.**

# Glory Be to God on High



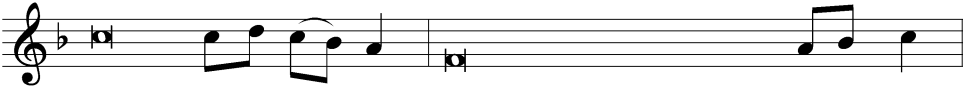
Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



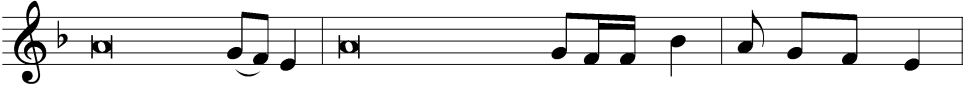
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



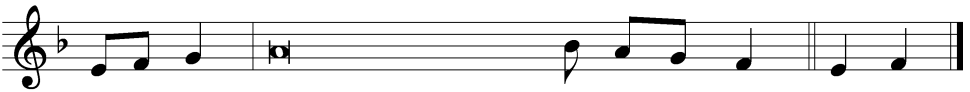
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### ***Prayer of the Day***

Let us pray.

Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### ***First Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20***

*<sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.*

*<sup>16</sup>That is exactly what you asked from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, "Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die."*

*<sup>17</sup>Then the LORD said to me, "They have done well by saying what they said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. <sup>20</sup>Any prophet who presumes to speak something in my name that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks something in the name of other gods—that prophet shall die."*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 1 CW 93

### Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

### Psalm tone



Blessed is the man

who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked\*  
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,\*  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season\*  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers. **Refrain**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,\*  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,\*  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**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: Robert J. Thompson. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,  
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## **Second Lesson: Hebrews 3:1-6**

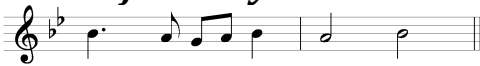
*Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, focus your attention on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. <sup>2</sup>He was faithful to the one who appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in God's whole house. <sup>3</sup>In fact, Jesus is worthy of greater glory than Moses, in the same way that the builder of a house has more honor than the house. <sup>4</sup>For every house is built by someone, and God is the one who built everything.*

*<sup>5</sup>Moses was faithful as a servant within God's whole house by testifying to the things that would be spoken. <sup>6</sup>But Christ is faithful as a Son over God's house. We are his house, if we hold on firmly to our confidence and the hope about which we boast until the end.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Verse of the Day**



*Refrain*



***Luke 4:18a: Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he anointed me to preach good news. Alleluia!***

*Refrain*



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## **Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:21-28**

*<sup>21</sup>Then they went into Capernaum.*

*On the next Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup>They were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them as one who has authority and not as the experts in the law. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue. It cried out, <sup>24</sup>“What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”*

*<sup>25</sup>Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, “Be quiet! Come out of him!”*

*<sup>26</sup>The unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions, and after crying out with a loud voice, it came out of him. <sup>27</sup>Everyone was so amazed that they began to discuss this with each other. They said, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits, and they obey him!” <sup>28</sup>News about him spread quickly through all the region of Galilee.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# 744 Rise, Shine, You People

CW 21



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
 3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered.  
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.  
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.  
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -  
 All men and wom - en, who by guilt are  
 To all the world go out and tell the  
 Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
 driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
 sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
 na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Tune: Dale Wood, 1934-2003

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**SERMON TEXT: Mark 1:21-28**

**JESUS STILL DOES HIS BEST EPIPHANY IN CHURCH**

**I. HE SPEAKS THE AUTHORITY OF HIS WORD.**

**II. HE SHOWS THE AUTHORITY OF HIS ACTIONS.**

***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.*

## ***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***

**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.  
Amen.**

## 924 *Abide, O Dearest Jesus* CW 21



- 1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace  
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, a - mong us with your Word  
3 A - bide with heav'n-ly bright - ness a - mong us, pre - cious Light;  
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings a - mong us, boun-teous Lord;



that Sa - tan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.  
and thus now and here - af - ter true peace and joy af - ford.  
your truth di - rect and keep us from er - ror's gloom - y night.  
let us in grace and wis - dom grow dai - ly through your Word.

- 5 Abide with your protection  
among us, Lord, our strength,  
lest world and Satan fell us  
and overcome at length.

- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
among us with your love;  
grant steadfastness and help us  
to reach our home above.

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632

Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615

Text and tune: Public domain

Setting One from Christian Worship 2021.

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# ***This Week at St. John's: Jan 28, 2024***

## **SERVING US TODAY**

Greeters: Betty Nemitz & Dianne Buettner

Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team

Altar Guild: Jean Goetz & Ashley Leiterman

Donating Bulletins: Schmid Family

January Website: Henry & Julie Berry

## **SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY**

Greeters: Dawn Arndt & Anita Berry

Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Rachel Anderson & Jenny Shadrick

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

<b>TODAY</b>	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
<b>MONDAY</b>	Dartball @ Greenwood
<b>TUESDAY</b>	4:00 PM Church Band
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:20 AM Chapel
	3:45 PM Confirmation Class
<b>THURSDAY</b>	4:00 PM Bible Study
	5:30 PM Adult Instruction Class
	6:30 PM Choir
<b>SATURDAY</b>	5:00-8:00 Bruce Mound Family Tubing
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9:00 AM Communion Service
	10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class
	10:30 Grades 3K-3 <sup>rd</sup> sing at Christie
	11:30 Sunday School Teachers Meeting

### **Worship the Lord with Gladness:**

Last Sunday: 100

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

Thankoffering Given Last Sunday:

\$6,958.00 (Home); \$520.00 (Missions)

Needed per week for Home: \$8,400.00.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**No Bible Class:** *Because of the annual voters' meeting today, there will be no Bible Class.*

**Annual Voters Meeting:** *Our annual voters meeting will be held this morning after the worship service. We hope many of you can stay for that, as we go over ministry from the last six months and make plans for 2024. Our communion procedure will be up for a vote, as well as the proposed budget and other items of business.*

**Sunday School:** *Sunday School will be held today after the worship service for Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. There will be no Sunday School for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade.*

**Band Practice:** *Because of scheduling conflicts, we will have church band practice this Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> instead of February 6<sup>th</sup>.*

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

**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.*



## **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.

*Ash Wednesday-Accusations*

*Midweek 2-Restraint*

*Midweek 3-Testimony*

*Midweek 4-Misconceptions*

*Midweek 5-Truth*

*Midweek 6-Sympathy*

*Maundy Thursday-Respite*

*Good Friday-Evidence*

*Easter Sunday-Vindication*

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*

**Basketball:** We took first place at the Northland Tournament on January 20<sup>th</sup>. This past Monday, both B & A teams won. On Tuesday, both B & A teams won. This past Thursday, the B team lost and the A Team won. Our A-Team is undefeated so far.

This Tuesday we travel to Marshfield to play Trinity. The B Team plays at 4:00, and the A Team plays at 5:00.

This Thursday we will travel to Our Savior's in Wausau to play at 4:30. This will be a combination of B and A Team players.

**Coffee Fundraiser:** We are once again selling Berres Brothers coffee. Order forms are available on the table in the church entryway. Proceeds from coffee sales will go into our Camp Phillip tuition assistance fund. Order forms and money should be turned in to the school office by Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. The coffee should be here and ready to be picked up early in April.

**Pancake Breakfast:** The Friends of St. John's will be sponsoring its annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 11, from 10:30-1:00 in the school gym. All are invited to attend. Free will offerings given will go toward tuition assistance.

If you can help out by donating needed items for the breakfast or by helping with serving and clean-up, please fill out and return the donation slips that were in last week's bulletin. Extra slips can be found on the table in the entryway. Thank you!

**Winter Carnival:** Our church's HIS Group (Hands in Service) is sponsoring a children's carnival on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 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. You can also sign up on the sheet in the entryway. Thanks!



**Student of the Week:** *The student of the week is Dani Shadrick. Dani is in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. She works hard, gets her work done, has been participating more in class, and sets a good example in the classroom. Congratulations Dani!*

**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.*

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

**Calendars:** *February calendars are available in the entryway.*

**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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](http://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,

On January 16<sup>th</sup> 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 their 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:** Mount Calvary, Anderson, Calif. – Lord Jesus, we praise you that in 2023 the Board for Home Missions approved support for ten new home missions and ten mission enhancements. This is a strong start to our synod's goal of opening 100 new missions and enhancing 75 existing ministries in ten years. We pray today for Mount Calvary, a multi-site ministry in Redding and Anderson, California. Bless the congregation as they call a staff minister to assist with evangelism and youth/family ministry at the Anderson site. Give success to our outreach efforts at this mission and in all our churches, Lord. Amen.

**TOGETHER**



January 23, 2024

## Celebration in Uganda

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Last summer, our synod declared fellowship with the Obadiah Lutheran Synod (OLS), a small confessional Lutheran church body in the African nation of Uganda. On Jan. 13, the OLS held a synodwide worship service celebrating its fellowship with WELS. Members of the OLS traveled from towns and villages through southeastern Uganda to attend—some for more than six hours. More than 800 people attended the special worship celebration. Missionary Howard Mohlke and I were blessed to attend as the representatives of WELS.


The morning began with heavy rains. Because the celebration was to be held outdoors and the dirt roads leading to the location were impassable, the service was delayed for several hours until the rain stopped. But the weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of those who came to worship. The service began with songs by the youth choir and with the robust singing of many hymns by the worshippers. The service also included the ordination of a new OLS pastor, an address by OLS President Makisimu Musa, and words of encouragement from many of the OLS pastors in attendance. The celebration also included words of greeting from the WELS representatives as well as encouraging words of congratulations by local and national Ugandan government officials.

Just as the delegates at our WELS convention last summer were overjoyed to establish fellowship with the OLS and thanked God for the blessing, so the people of the OLS shared in that joy and thanks.

The OLS is planting new congregations in towns and villages throughout Uganda, and it is being blessed with a growth in membership. Along with that growth comes challenges, especially when it comes to the need for all-wheel drive vehicles that can negotiate the bumpy and muddy roads to enable contact with remote congregations. And while the synod builds its own churches with locally made mud-fired brick, it is in need of funds to provide roofs for those buildings.

WELS members have been generous in their support for these projects, and the OLS is very grateful for what has been received. But additional funds are needed to complete the necessary projects. If you would like to support the OLS in the gospel ministry it is faithfully carrying out, you can send your gift to WELS World Missions, designated for the OLS in Uganda, or donate online at [community.wels.net](https://community.wels.net).

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder

Learn more about the work in Uganda at [wels.net/uganda](https://wels.net/uganda). 

## A review of God's blessings in 2023

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**Y**our gifts, God's blessings: An annual report to our members" is now available. The 24-page report includes photos of Christian brothers and sisters around the world, stories of faith, and updates on WELS' ministry.

"God blesses us every day in so many ways that it's easy to take those blessings for granted," says WELS President Rev. Mark Schroeder. "That's true for us as individuals, and it's also true for us as a synod. This annual report is intended to review some of the ways that God has blessed our work together during the past year."

Some of those blessings include:

- David, who is studying with the Pastoral Studies Institute and leads an online Bible study from his home, which has led to many East Asians around the world being baptized;
- Colleen, who didn't grow up in the church but whose life changed after she attended Intown, Atlanta, Ga., with her college roommate; and
- the 61 teenagers who attended the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership and participated in conversations with other WELS members about leadership, ministry, and outreach.

These stories and more are presented in the 2024 edition of "Your gifts, God's blessings." Print versions of the report are being sent to every WELS congregation and individual donor.

Additional print versions are available from Northwestern Publishing House for free. Visit [nph.net/wels](http://nph.net/wels) or call 800-662-6022.

To view the report online, visit [wels.net/annualreport](http://wels.net/annualreport). There you can also download a PowerPoint presentation of the report with notes that allow anyone to share the highlights of our synod's work. Alternatively, churches can invite a WELS Christian giving counselor to give the presentation. Contact WELS Ministry of Christian Giving at 800-827-5482 for more information.

Looking for a simpler communication piece that provides an overview of WELS and its ministries? Consider the new two-sided flyer that was designed to be shared with visitors and prospects. It's perfect for tract racks, narthex displays, and community fair booths. This flyer is available from Northwestern Publishing House at [nph.net/wels](http://nph.net/wels) or by calling 800-662-6022. ☪



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**

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Facebook (church): [www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/)  
Facebook (school): [www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/)

#### **Worship Schedule**

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