St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

"I will surely
bless you...
because
you have obeyed
my voice."

‡ Lent 1 **‡** February 18, 2024

"Welcome Visitors & Members!"

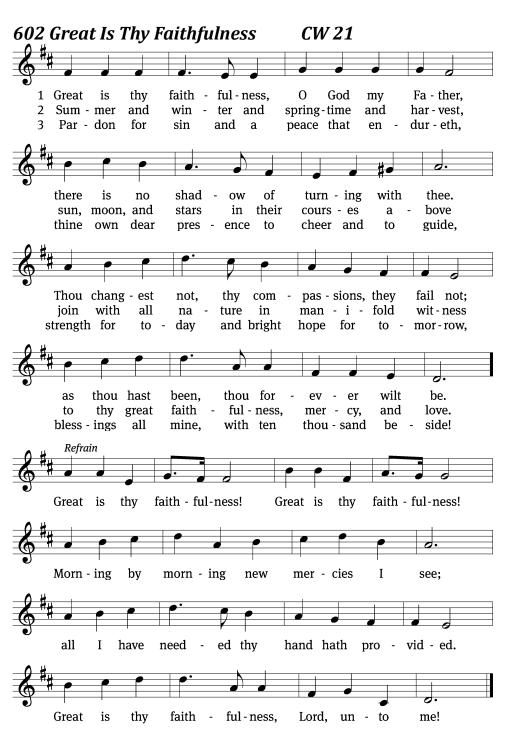
To those who are visiting us for the first time, we extend our sincere welcome; to our friends who know us we renew our welcome; to those who seek a church home we invite you to be part of our family and enjoy fellowship with our Savior.

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

Lent: In the season of Lent, Jesus teaches things that turn the world's assumptions about religion completely upside down. We call it "*Christ*ianity." So, in this holy season, let us go straight to Christ and let him replace assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

Today is Lent 1. Our focus: Rethinking Religion: Trials, Tests and Temptations

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Text: Thomas O. Chisolm, 1866–1960 Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870–1957 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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

First Lesson: Genesis 22:1-18

Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, "Abraham!" Abraham answered, "I am here."

²God said, "Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains, the one to which I direct you."

³Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

⁵Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together.

7Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father?"

He said, "I am here, my son."

He said, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

⁸Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them went on together. ⁹They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

¹¹The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" Abraham said, "I am here."

¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

¹³Abraham looked around and saw that there was a ram behind him, caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴Abraham called the name of that place "The LORD Will Provide." So it is said to this day, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

¹⁵The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.

Psalm 3 CW Supplement





O LORD, how many <u>are</u> my foes! How many rise up <u>against</u> me! Many are say<u>ing</u> of me, "God will not deliver him."

But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill.

Refrain

I lie <u>down</u> and sleep;

I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.
I will not fear the tens of thousands
drawn up against me on ev'ry side.

Arise, O LORD!

Deliver me, <u>O</u> my God! From the LORD comes de<u>liverance</u>. May your blessing be on your <u>peo</u>ple.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the beg<u>in</u>ning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Lesson: Romans 8:31-39

³¹What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

³³Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! ³⁴Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! ³⁵What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to death all day long.

We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Verse of the Day: Matthew 4:10b

"It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:12-15

¹²The Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels were serving him.

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.





Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Tune: Christian Egenolff, 1502-1555

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Tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: Genesis 22:1-18
PUT YOURSELF IN ABRAHAM'S PLACE

- I. THINK ABOUT GOD'S PROMISES.
- II. TRUST THEM WHEN GOD PUTS YOU TO THE TEST.

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.

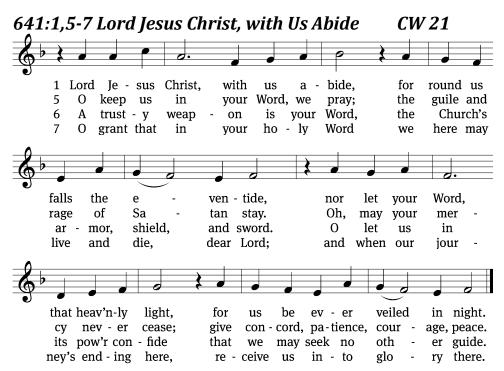
BENEDICTION

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: tr. composite; (st. 1): German version, Geistliche Psalmen, Nuremberg, 1611; (st. 1): Philipp Melanchthon, 1497–1560; (sts. 5–7): Nicolaus Selnecker, 1532–1592, abr.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder D. Martini Lutheri, Leipzig, 1589

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This Week at St. John's: Feb 18, 2024

SERVING US TODAY

Organist: Rachel Anderson

<u>Greeters:</u> Marilyn Shaw & Alice Glinski <u>Ushers:</u> Team 3-Dick Urban's team

Altar Guild: Linda Biebert & Megan Allard

Donating Bulletins: Schmid Family

February Website: Ray & Sharon Wetzel in thankfulness for

our Savior

SERVING US WEDNESDAY

Greeters: Kathleen Quast & Lynda Hilliard

Ushers: Team 3-Dick Urban's team

Altar Guild: Linda Biebert & Megan Allard

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

<u>Greeters:</u> Joan Zickert & Jean Goetz <u>Ushers:</u> Team 4-Rex Roehl's team Altar Guild: Charlene Siebert

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY 9:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

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

2:00-4:00 PM Shut-In Visits 4:00 PM Adult Instruction Class

Dartball vs. Greenwood

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

4:00 PM Church Band 5:30 PM HIS Meeting

WEDNESDAY 8:20 AM Chapel

3:45 PM Confirmation Class6:00 PM GPS serves supper

7:00 PM Lenten Worship-Gr. K-8 sing

THURSDAY 3:15 PM Bible Study

6:30 PM Choir

FRIDAY 3:15 PM Faculty Meeting

SATURDAY 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Kids Carnival

NEXT SUNDAY 9:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

CHURCH NEWS

Bible Class: Join us in the church basement for Bible Class after the worship service today, as we continue our study of 1 Peter. All are invited!

Sunday School: Sunday School classes resume today after the worship service for children age 3 through 8th grade.

Church Band: Church band rehearsal will be held this Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in the church balcony. All instrumentalists are welcome!

HIS Meeting: Our HIS group will be meeting this Tuesday at 5:30 in the school conference room to make final plans for the upcoming Kids Carnival on February 24^{th} . If you'd like to help with the planning, you are welcome to attend the meeting.

Supper: Our GPS group will be serving supper this Wednesday, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. The menu includes chicken & broccoli alfredo hotdish, sliced ham, buttered buns, salads, sheet cakes, and all the extras! All of you are invited to attend.

Lent: We will have a Lenten worship service at 7:00 p.m. this Wednesday. Our Lenten series this year is called "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. **This Wednesday our particular focus will be "Restraint."**

Pastor Dan Naumann of Trinity, Marshfield will be leading our worship service. Pastor Biebert will be leading the service at Immanuel Globe. Children in Grades K-8 will be singing during the service.

Gifts given in your special "Lent" envelopes will go toward Home. We hope to see many of you as we continue our Lenten journey and see the depth of our Savior's love as he goes to the cross for us.

Thursday Bible Study: Thursday Bible Study will resume this week. Because of the basketball game schedule, we will meet at 3:15 in the school conference room.

Home BB Games: We have home games this Thursday against St. Mark of Eau Claire. The B Team will play at 4:00, and the A Team will play at 5:00. Come and cheer for the Hornets!

Winter Carnival: Our church's HIS Group (Hands in Service) is sponsoring a children's carnival **this coming Saturday, February 24**th 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 cakewalk, 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!

Meditations: The new Meditation devotional booklets are available in the rack by the front doors. Please consider a \$3.50 donation to help our GPS group cover the cost. Thanks!

Pancake Breakfast: We would like to thank everyone who attended the pancake breakfast last Sunday, and all who donated toward the free-will offering. \$1,723.00 was given. We also want to offer special thanks to all who donated food items or money for food, and to all who helped out. Your support is greatly appreciated!!

Bake Sale: Thank you to everyone who supported our 6th-7th graders as they prepare for their 2025 summer trip to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter by purchasing items at the bake sale. \$660 has been raised from the sale. Thanks for your support!!

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 15th. The coffee should be here and ready to be picked up early in April.

Penny Wars: Penny Wars has started up again. This will go until Easter Sunday. We will have the money containers here at church starting today, and you can stop in at school any time during the week if you'd like to drop off coins (or bills). Funds raised will go toward the school bathroom project. Please see more details below.

St. John's Penny Wars!

Purpose: To help raise money for <u>your</u> school to update the old bathrooms next to the gymnasium!

Goal: For your class to gain the most points by collecting the most pennies. The winning classroom will get a pizza party! Our goal is to collect at least \$1500. If we do there will be a special reward which will be announced soon.

Scoring:

- Penny: +1 point (put these in your classrooms jug)
- Nickel: -1 points (put these in someone else's jug)
- Dime: -5 points (put these in someone else's jug)
- Quarter: -10 points (put these in someone else's jug)
- Dollar Bill: -25 points (put these in someone else's jug)
- 5 Dollar Bill: -100 points (put these in someone else's jug)
- 10 Dollar Bill: -200 points (put these in someone else's jug)
- 20 Dollar Bill: -400 points (put these in someone else's jug)

How to Play: Each classroom will have a jug that they are trying to collect the most pennies in. Other classrooms can put money into a different classrooms jug to make them lose points. (Ex. A 1st grade student can bring a \$1 bill and put it into Mr. Allard's milk jug and his class loses 25 points!) Pennies are the only way you earn points for your room, anything else you want to put in other classrooms jugs.

Who can Participate? EVERYONE, students, teachers, parents, church members...

How long does this last? The Penny Wars will start this week Thursday @ 7:45 AM (Feb 1) and will go until Sunday @ 9:00AM (March 31).

Household Item Collection: We thank Eric Backaus for donating the use of his trailer for our collection of clothing and household items. Proceeds from this will go to our school bathroom fund. We are tentatively planning on collecting and delivering the items the last week in April; as soon as we have a firm date we will let you know.

In the meantime, you can begin saving clothing, household items, linens, shoes, books, etc. Watch for further details.

Hospitalized: Jane Zank is hospitalized at the Black River Falls hospital (Rm 2221), where she continues to recuperate. **Erland Greeler** is receiving therapy at Three Oaks in Marshfield. Let's keep them in our prayers.

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

Almost a month ago I received another Divine Call to serve as Pastor at Christus Lutheran Church of Delavan, WI. During this time, I had conversations with several members of Christus, as well as some of their leaders, as to what they would expect of me if the Lord led me to accept that Call.

Being very conscious of my age and my diminishing energy, I also wanted to hear from as many of you as possible. Thanks to the many of you who have reached out to me. Our Chairman, John Hagedorn, called a special Church Council meeting which did not include my presence nor that of Mr. Allard. He gave them the opportunity to voice any concerns regarding my ability to continue serving here at St. John's, especially with the challenges that lie ahead of us. Further, I met with Principal Allard and bluntly asked whether he felt we had a good working relationship with each other and whether I was still a good influence on a big part of our congregation's ministry -- our School. It also meant a lot that all of our Faculty members and many of our School staff took time to talk to me.

During this time, I've spent time in prayer, asking the Lord Himself to guide me by His Word. He clearly did just that. That has been a truly humbling experience.

The one person who was mainly silent in all this was my wife, Linda, who just told me that she would support whatever decision the Lord would lead me to make.

With all of that being said, the Good Shepherd of His Church, my Good Shepherd, has guided me to return the Call to Christus in Delavan and remain serving in my Call to you here at St. John's in Neillsville.

May the God of all grace and power continue to work in all of us as we carry out His blessed work of preaching the Gospel, strengthening the faith of those who believe in Him and reaching out to those who don't.

It continues to be an honor to serve you.

In Christ," Pastor Biebert

Help Needed: One of our members, Luzia Gustavson, was brought to church on a regular basis by David Meyer, who is now in heaven. Is there someone else who would be able to bring Luzia to church and take her home again, either on a regular basis, sharing the opportunity with others, or periodically when needed? Luzia lives 13 miles south of Neillsville on Grand Ave. If you would be willing to help out, please contact Linda Biebert at 715-743-3015. Thanks!

Annual Report: The 2023 annual reports, which include an updated church directory, are available on the table in the entryway.

Thrivent Choice: In 2023 we received \$2,200 in Thrivent Choice Dollars for the church, and \$239 for the school. We thank all those who donated in this way. Just a reminder, you have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2023 choice dollars.

SAVE THE DATE & SPREAD THE WORD

3K/4K-Kindergarten Open House: We will have an open house for those families who have children who will be entering 3K, 4K, or Kindergarten in the fall of 2024. Open House will be held Saturday, March 16th from 10:00 to noon. More information will be sent home to those families.

Kindergarten Round-Up: Kindergarten Round-Up will be held on Thursday afternoon, March 21st, from 12:30 to 2:45. All current 4K students are invited. More information will be sent home to those families.

If you know of a friend, neighbor, or family member interested in a Christian education for their child tell them about these events!

WELS Weekly Prayer: Mexico – Holy Spirit, graciously protect and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ who belong to Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Confesional, our sister church body in Mexico. There are over 125 million people in Mexico but only a few hundred members of this church. Yet you are working through them using technology like the Academia Cristo app. Bless the 60+ active students who are studying your saving Word through this app. We pray many more will download and use it. Continue to raise up a new generation of leaders and bless their efforts as they continue to declare the praises of him who has called them out of darkness into your wonderful light. Amen.

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Last Sunday: 142 Ash Wednesday: 80

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given Last Sunday: \$8,370.02 (Home); \$766.00 (Missions) Needed per week for Home: \$8,400.00

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 in the entryway.
- 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 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456 Contact Info

Church & School Office: stjohns1886@gmail.com

715-743-2501

Tim Biebert, Pastor: 1fisheromen@gmail.com

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Mike Allard, Principal: <u>allardmj1@gmail.com</u>

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)