

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

***LOOK
and
LIVE!***

† Lent 4 †

March 10, 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 "Christianity." 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 4.

Our focus: Rethinking Religion: The Solution to Sin

Communion: We will celebrate the Lord's Supper today using the regular style of distribution in the front pews.

St. John's practices "member communion." We ask, therefore, that only those who are members of St. John's or another WELS/ELS congregation partake of the sacrament.

The church year begins here 2023

We are Here

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

399

To God Be the Glory



1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
 2 Oh, per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,
 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,



He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,
 To ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;
 And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son,



Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
 The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves,
 But pur - er and high - er and great - er will be



And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 Our joy and our won - der when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!



Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son



And give him the glo - ry— great things he has done!

Order of Worship: The Service Setting 2 (CW 21)

Throughout the service, the congregation speaks (or sings) the parts printed in bold.

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

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

**We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

Have mercy on us, Lord!


**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

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.

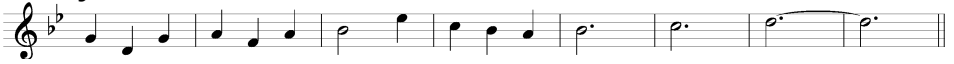


A - men.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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Glory Be to God



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!"

⁶The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. ⁷The people went to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live." ⁹Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 38

CW 93

Refrain



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Psalm tone



O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger*
or discipline me in your wrath.

For your arrows have pierced me,*
and your hand has come down upon me.

My guilt has overwhelmed me*
like a burden too heavy to bear. **Refrain**

All my longings lie open before you, O LORD;*
my sighing is not hidden from you.

I wait for you, O LORD;*
you will answer, O Lord my God.

Come quickly to help me,*
O Lord my Savior.

**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**

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Psalm Tone: Paul Bunjes. © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
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Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked when you followed the ways of this present world. You were following the ruler of the domain of the air, the spirit now at work in the people who disobey.

³Formerly, we all lived among them in the passions of our sinful flesh, as we carried out the desires of the sinful flesh and its thoughts. Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God's wrath.

⁴But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁷He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day: John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Gospel Lesson: John 3:14-21

¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. ¹⁹This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. ²¹But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

570 God Loved the World So That He Gave CW 21



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the



Son the lost to save that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, Stettin, c. 1778
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: Numbers 21:4-9 GOD'S UNLIKELY SOLUTION

- I. For our complaints, a problem.
- II. For our problem, faith in what God says.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from
heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures.**

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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



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

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Preparation for Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.



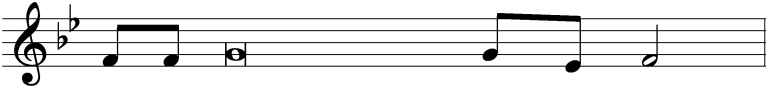
And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984, 1985, 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,



God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -



san - na in the high - est!

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Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first two staves form the first line of the hymn, the next two staves form the second line, and the final three staves form the third line. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the last staff.

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Distribution Hymn: 557

Personal Prayer after communion: *Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.*

557 *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

CW 21



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joi-ce, with ex - ul - ta - tion
 2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; death brood-ed dark - ly
 3 My own good works a - vailed me naught, no mer - it they at -
 4 But God be - held my wretch-ed state be - fore the world's foun-



spring-ing, and, with u - nit - ed heart and voice and ho - ly
 o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; in sin my
 tain - ing; my will a - gainst God's judg-ment fought, no hope for
 da - tion, and, mind - ful of his mer - cies great, he planned for



rap - ture sing - ing, pro-claim the won - ders God has done, how
 moth - er bore me. Yet deep and deep - er still I fell; life
 me re - main - ing. My fears in-creased till sheer de - spair left
 my sal - va - tion. A fa - ther's heart he turned to me, sought



his right arm the vic - t'ry won. How dear - ly it has cost him!
 had be - come a liv - ing hell, so firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
 on - ly death to be my share and hell to be my sen - tence.
 my re - demp - tion fer - vent - ly; he gave his dear - est trea - sure.

5 He spoke to his beloved Son:
 "It's time to have compassion.
 Then go, bright jewel of my crown,
 and bring to all salvation.
 From sin and sorrow set them free;
 slay bitter death for them that they
 may live with you forever."

6 The Son obeyed his Father's will,
 was born of virgin mother,
 and, God's good pleasure to fulfill,
 he came to be my brother.
 No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore;
 a servant's form like mine he bore
 to lead the devil captive.

- 7 To me he spoke, “Hold fast to me,
I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be;
for you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine,
and evermore you shall be mine;
the foe shall not divide us.
- 8 “The foe will shed my precious blood,
me of my life bereaving;
all this I suffer for your good;
be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict’ry win;
my innocence shall bear your sin,
and you are blest forever.
- 9 “Now to my Father I depart,
the Holy Spirit sending
and, heav’nly wisdom to impart,
my help to you extending.
He will a source of comfort be,
teach you to know and follow me,
and in all truth will guide you.
- 10 “What I on earth have lived and taught
be all your life and teaching;
so shall my kingdom’s work be wrought
and honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one’s man-made laws
should e’er destroy the gospel’s cause;
this final word I leave you.”

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, Wittenberg, 1524
Text and tune: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

519 *There Is a Redeemer* CW 21



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope_ for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in ___ that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Text: Melody Green, b. 1946

Tune: Melody Green, b. 1946, alt.

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This Week at St. John's: Mar 10, 2024

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Linda Biebert & Jenny Pagenkopf

Ushers: Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team

Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

Donating Bulletins: Schmid family

March Website: Henry & Julie Berry

SERVING US WEDNESDAY

Greeters: Donna Zank & Pat Strangfeld

Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team

Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Bob & Bernice Cords

Ushers: Team 3-Dick Urban's team

Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY

9:00 AM Communion Service

10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

MONDAY

Dartball @ Greenwood

TUESDAY

1:15 PM NRC Visit

WEDNESDAY

8:20 AM Chapel

3:45 PM Confirmation Class

6:00 PM LIGHTS serve supper

7:00 PM Lenten Worship-Gr. 4-8 sing

THURSDAY

4:00 PM Bible Study

6:30 PM Choir

FRIDAY

6:00 PM 3K/4K and K-3rd Play Night

SATURDAY

10:00 AM-Noon 3K/4K/5K Open House

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Living Stone Youth Group serves refreshments

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 will be held today after the worship service for children age 3 through 8th grade.

Supper: Our LIGHTS group will be serving supper this Wednesday, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. The menu includes ham and broccoli cheesy hotdish, fruit and veggie trays, buns and cake. 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 "Truth."**

Pastor Naumann of Trinity, Marshfield will be leading our service. Pastor Biebert will be leading the service at St. John's Christie. Children in grades 4-8 will be singing.

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 be held this week at 4:00 in the school conference room. Join us as we continue our study of the book of Romans.

Living Stones-Refreshments: Our Living Stones Youth Group (Grades 8-12) is starting up again after a hiatus since Covid. To put some faces to the Youth Group name, the teens would like to serve you refreshments after the church service next Sunday, March 17th. Four girls and two chaperones are also planning to attend this year's International Youth Rally in Colorado in June. There will be an opportunity to support them with your encouragement, prayers, and free will donations if you so desire that day as well.

Easter Breakfast: Anyone willing to help the Youth Group supply items for this year's Easter Breakfast, please check out the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway. Thanks!

Lights, Camera, Action! This year, our 3K-4K classes and our K-3 group will be putting on some school plays in the St. John's gym. The 3K-4K will be presenting "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." The K-3 classes will be putting on the play "Stone Soup" (a fantastic fable about the great gift of sharing).

Invite your friends and family to our play night, which is **this Friday, March 15**, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym.

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 this Friday, March 15th.** The coffee should be here and ready to be picked up early in April.

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, March 21st, from 8:30-11:00. 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!

Easter Flowers: *If you would like to purchase flowers to help beautify our worship services on Easter Sunday, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the entryway. Orders and payment must be received by Sunday, March 24. Money can be given to Charlene Siebert or Linda Biebert. Purchased flowers can be taken home after the 9:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday to grace your private Easter celebrations. If you aren't interested in a flowering plant but would still like to help beautify the altar, donations are gladly accepted.*

School Band Online Voting Contest: *Heid's Music from Stevens Point does a "Big 10 Contest" each year that awards prizes for school music programs. We are participating this year to benefit our school's music program. You can vote once a day to support our school. This contest started March 1st and goes through the month of March.*

To vote, you will need to go to the link below. Then you will scroll down the page to the section "Vote For Your Favorite Photo." There you will enter your email address, first and last name. As you scroll down, please find the picture of our school students and vote. <https://www.heidmusic.com/big10plus/>

Penny Wars: *Penny Wars has started up again. This will go until Easter Sunday. We will have the money containers at church on Sundays, 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.*

FUNDrive: Clear your clutter for a cause! *Please bring your bags and covered boxes of unwanted household items to the collection trailer in the St. John's Lutheran School parking lot. Regular collection times are Sunday, April 21 from 10:00-12:00 and Monday, April 22, through Friday, April 26, 7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Proceeds help make our original school bathrooms handicap accessible!*

We Are Collecting Clothes

men's, women's, & children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.

Household Textiles

bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.

Small Household Goods

kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics

Books & Media

*paperback, magazines, hard cover - all genres; *media needs to be boxed separately *no encyclopedias or text books*

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly pack boxes of small household goods. Separate books from household goods and media. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.

Boxes: *If anyone is in need of cardboard boxes to pack items for the FUNDrive, we have empty boxes both here at church and at school. If you are in need of boxes, please talk to our church custodians or Linda Biebert, or stop at school during the school day.*

Soup, Pie & Ice Cream: *We would like to thank all who brought soup, pies, and other items for our supper this past Wednesday. Thanks also to all who helped with set-up, serving and clean-up, and all who attended. We appreciate all the support!*



Student of the Week: *The student of the week is Garrett Schoen. Garrett is in 3rd Grade. He participates well in class, has been setting a good example for his classmates, and has been working hard on improving his handwriting.*
Congratulations Garrett!

Hospitalized: *Jane Zank has been hospitalized in the Black River Falls hospital, but she is expecting to come home today. Erland Greeler has been moved back to Three Oaks in Marshfield. Let's keep them in our prayers.*

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

Thrivent Choice: This past week we received \$1,223 (\$129 of that goes to the bell fund) for the church and \$523 (\$25 of that goes to the school bathroom fund) for the school from people making use of their choice dollars. Thank you! Just a reminder, you have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2023 choice dollars.

Pine Car Derby: We will be having a Pine Car Derby on Saturday, April 13th, starting at 1:00 in the school gym. Pine car kits are \$3 each. You can purchase those from Mrs. Shadrick. All children (and adults) are invited to participate in the fun. If you'd like to bring snacks to share, please feel free to do so. We will also be having a chili cook-off that day. Watch for further details.

Do you know someone who is great at working with children? St. John's Early Learning Center is NOW HIRING! We will be needing to fill a full-time caregiver position to work with ages 0-3 during the school day. Position options are flexible. Must be at least 18 years old, organized, a good communicator, and ready to share Jesus' 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.

Please share this information with those you know who may fit this position and consider it for yourself! St. John's has a wonderful working environment and it's a joy to see so many young children spend their days surrounded by God's Word. Thanks for considering!

Church Council Highlights

Tuesday Worship: We will resume our Tuesday worship service starting on April 9th. Tuesday worship will be held at 6:00 p.m. as normal.

Membership Change: Tracey Quast was removed from membership at her request.

Church Campout Date Change: The dates for this year's church campout are September 13-15, one week later than normal. Mark your calendars!

Financial Update: Offerings to Home so far in 2024 are just over \$3,000 higher than they were at this same time period last year. So far **no** money has been borrowed from our line of credit. Our council members would like to commend the members for your offerings given generously out of love for the Lord. It is much easier and less stressful for our council members to lead the congregation when they don't have to figure out how we are going to pay our bills. Keep up the good work, and be confident that the Lord will bless our efforts!

WELS Weekly Prayer: Worship – Lord of heavenly hosts, we thank you for Rev. Bryan Gerlach's many years of faithful service as pastor, musician, and director of the WELS Commission on Worship. Bless his retirement and continuing service to you through his local congregation. Guide the efforts of Rev. Paul Prange as the interim director of the Commission on Worship. Let the work of the commission continue to equip our congregations with worship materials that glorify you above all and point people to Christ's saving work. Amen.

Holy Week Devotions: Martin Luther College will be making Holy Week devotions available under the theme "The Savior We Need." Two thousand years ago, God's people were expecting the Messiah to be a conquering hero who would rescue them from their Roman oppressors. Instead, he came as a suffering servant who died at the hands of those Romans. This is what Paul called the foolishness of the cross. But the Bible makes it clear that the Jesus those people received—the Jesus we are blessed to call our Savior today—is far greater than any we could ever have designed on our own. These devotions will show us that Jesus truly is the Savior we need.

You can subscribe to these devotions by going to <https://mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/> (Printed copies are not available.)

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Last Sunday: 127
Last Wednesday: 95

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given Last Sunday:
\$9,487.00 (Home); \$975.12 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: \$8,400.00

Holy Week Schedule



Maundy Thursday, March 28

Communion service at **7:00**

Service Focus: God on Trial-Respite

Our Adult Choir sings.

Offerings given in your special Maundy Thursday envelopes will go toward Home.

Good Friday, March 29

Worship service at **1:00**

Service Focus: God On Trial-Evidence

Students in grades K-8 sing.

Offerings given in your special Good Friday envelopes will go toward Missions.

Easter Sunday, March 31

Communion services at **6:30** and **9:00.**

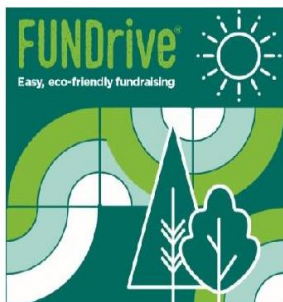
Service Focus: God on Trial-Vindication

Our Adult Choir sings for both services.

Easter Breakfast: will be held between services

Offerings given in your special Easter envelopes will go toward Missions.

Please join us for these very special worship services, and please consider inviting a family member, relative, friend, neighbor, etc. to worship with us as well.



FUNDrive® Coordinator

Linda Biebert
(715) 819-0455
stjohns1886@gmail.com

Our Goal: \$1000

250 Large Yard Bags (avg. 20 lbs.)
75 Medium boxes (household
goods)

Fundraiser Dates:

04/21/2024 - 04/27/2024

Community Collection Days

April 21 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
St. John's Lutheran School Parking Lot
805 W 5TH ST
Neillsville, WI 54456

April 26 04:00 PM - 08:00 PM
St. John's Lutheran School Parking Lot
805 W 5TH ST
Neillsville, WI 54456

April 27 09:00 AM - 11:00 AM
St. John's Lutheran School Parking Lot
805 W 5TH ST
Neillsville, WI 54456

Clean out your closets for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School!

Clear your clutter for a cause! Please bring your bags and covered boxes of unwanted household items to the collection trailer in the St. John's Lutheran School parking lot. Regular collection times are Monday, April 22, through Friday, April 26, 7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Proceeds help make our original school bathrooms handicap accessible!

We Are Collecting

Clothes

men's, women's, & children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.

Household Textiles

bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.

Small Household Goods

kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics

Books & Media

paperback, hard cover - all genres

**media needs to be boxed separately*

**no encyclopedias or text books*

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly pack boxes of small household goods. Separate books from household goods and media. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.



FUNDrive® is an eco-friendly fundraiser for nonprofit organizations. Collect gently-used items in your community and FUNDrive® will buy them.

Visit <https://FUNDrive.savers.com> to learn more.



TOGETHER



March 5, 2024

A testimony of faith and Christian love

Less than two weeks ago, on Feb. 24, the nation of Ukraine marked the second anniversary of Russia's invasion of their country. Now into the third year of the war, the Ukrainian people continue to experience the hardship and tragedy of war.


The Ukrainian Lutheran Church, our sister synod in Ukraine, has been impacted greatly by the war. Some members have fled the country. Pastors' and members' homes, as well as churches, have been damaged or destroyed. Shortages of food, medicine, and fuel have made life very difficult. Since the beginning of the conflict, our synod has offered assistance to the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. WELS members have been very generous in their gifts, and relief support has been sent to the Ukrainian Lutheran Church on a regular basis as they have requested it. Those gifts have provided much needed supplies not only to the members of the church but also to people in their communities.

Last week, Bishop V'yacheslav Horpynchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, was interviewed on a radio show called Issues, Etc. This radio show is affiliated with the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, which partners with another Lutheran church in Ukraine. In the interview, Horpynchuk describes in vivid detail how the war has affected our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. His story is a beautiful and compelling confession of faith and trust in the Lord even in the darkest of days and a testimony of how God works to bless his church and the spread of the gospel even in the middle of a terrible war.

I thought his story was one that WELS members should hear as a reminder of the power of the gospel. It's also an encouragement for us to continue our prayers and support for the people of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church and their fellow citizens of Ukraine.

The interview lasts about 45 minutes. You can listen to it or download the podcast online at issuesetc.org.

Learn more about the Ukrainian Lutheran Church at wels.net/ukraine.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

Texas wildfire update from WELS Christian Aid and Relief

Rev. Dan Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief (CAR), provided an update to CAR's Facebook page today regarding the wildfires in Texas:

"This morning, I spoke with Rev. Hans Thomford, pastor of Amazing Grace, a small mission congregation in Amarillo, Texas. We have been working together with him and his congregation and with other district leaders since the Smokehouse Creek Fire broke out. He and members of his congregation have been reaching out to the local community impacted by the fire. With support from WELS Christian Aid and Relief and other local donations, they have been able to give away gift cards to help people with immediate needs and have also provided some cattle feed to help take care of scattered herds until they can be moved to better pasture. They continue to monitor the situation and look for opportunities to assist those in need.

"As of now, CAR has no plans to deploy volunteers to Texas. However, plans can change. Stay tuned to this page for further updates, and please continue to remember those impacted by this terrible fire in your prayers."

To stay up to date, follow CAR on Facebook at **fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief**. 

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)
- ✚ 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

- Church & School Office: stjohns1886@gmail.com
715-743-2501
- Tim Biebert, Pastor: 1fisheromen@gmail.com
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)