

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

“ZEAL

For Your House

will Consume

Me.”

John 2:17

† Lent 3 †

March 3, 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 3. Our focus: Rethinking Religion: Worship

Communion: We will celebrate the Lord's Supper today using the regular style of distribution at the rail. 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							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
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													
					1	2	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31								
31							28	29	30																		
Season After Pentecost																											
June 2024							July 2024							August 2024													
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	8	8	9	10							
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30	31										
30																											
September 2024							October 2024							November 2024													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		1	2	3	4	5							1	2							
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9							
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									

912 Open, Lovely Doors

CW 21



1 O - pen, love - ly doors, and let me come in - to God's
2 With a song I've come to greet you; come to me, dear
3 You de - serve my deep - est rev - 'rence; sanc - ti - fy me



house to - day! This is where great joys be - set me
Lord, I pray. Where you let your peo - ple meet you
through and through. Let my wor - ship in your pres - ence



more than I can sing or say. Here I view God's
heav - en's light is bright as day. Let my heart your
clear - ly show my love for you. Lord of mer - cy,



glo - rious face, see his light, re - ceive his grace.
heav - en be; Sav - ior, make your home in me.
hear my cry: lift my heart to you on high!

Text: tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963; Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737, abr.

Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

Text: © 2012 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

Tune: Public domain

Divine Service I CW Supplement

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

C (spoken) Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a greyed-out section, followed by the lyrics: "Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy". The second staff continues with the lyrics: "on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the second staff.

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C (spoken) Amen.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly




Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



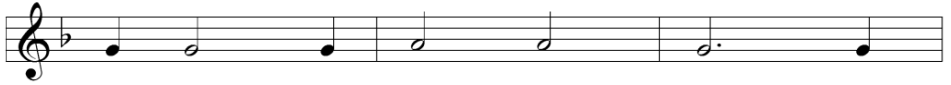
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



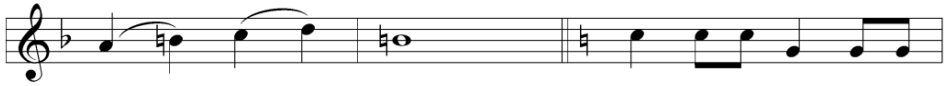
world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the




Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, 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. Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

M Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *(spoken)* Amen.

THE WORD

First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, where you were slaves.

³You shall have no other gods beside me. ⁴You shall not make any carved image for yourself or a likeness of anything in heaven above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. ⁵Do not bow down to them or be subservient to them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God. I follow up on the guilt of the fathers with their children, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren, if they also hate me. ⁶But I show mercy to thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not permit anyone who misuses his name to escape unpunished.

⁸Remember the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy. ⁹Six days you are to serve and do all your regular work, ¹⁰but the seventh day shall be a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. Do not do any regular work, neither you, nor your sons or daughters, nor your male or female servants, nor your cattle, nor the alien who is residing inside your gates, ¹¹for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

¹²Honor your father and your mother so that you may spend many days on the land that the LORD your God is giving to you.

¹³You shall not commit murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

Psalm 19 CW 93

Refrain



Lord, you have the words of
ev - er - last - ing life.

Psalm tone

The heavens declare the glory of God;*

the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Their voice goes out into all the earth,*
their words to the ends of the world. **Refrain**

The law of the LORD is perfect,*
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,*
giving light to the eyes.

They are more precious than gold;*
they are sweeter than honey.

By them is your servant taught,*
in keeping them there is great reward. **Refrain**

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart*
be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.

**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: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,
www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. ¹⁹In fact, it is written:

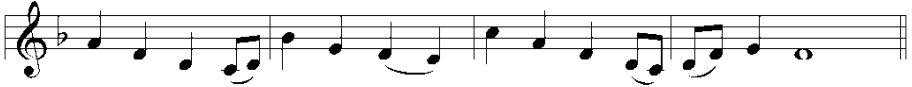
*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will bring to nothing.*

²⁰Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Jewish law? Where is the probing thinker of the present age? Has God not shown that the wisdom of this world is foolish? ²¹Indeed, since the world through its wisdom did not know God, God in his wisdom decided to save those who believe, through the foolishness of the preached message. ²²Yes, Jews ask for signs, Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified—which is offensive to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵We preach Christ crucified, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Verse of the Day: John 2:17

His disciples remembered that it was written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

Gospel Lesson: John 2:13-22



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

¹³The Jewish Passover was near, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and money changers sitting at tables. ¹⁵He made a whip of cords and drove everyone out of the temple courts, along with the sheep and oxen. He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those selling doves he said, "Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a place of business!"

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸So the Jews responded, "What sign are you going to show us to prove you can do these things?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again."

²⁰The Jews said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple! And you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹But Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When Jesus was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this. Then they believed the Scripture and what Jesus had said.



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

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.

637 *The Law of God Is Good and Wise* CW 21



1 The law of God is good and wise and sets his
2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts the knowl - edge
3 To those who help in Christ have found and would in
4 But those who scorn - ful - ly dis - dain God's law shall



will be - fore our eyes, shows us the way of right - eous -
of our sin - ful hearts that we may see our lost es -
works of love a - bound it shows what deeds are his de -
then in sin re - main; its ter - ror in their ear re -



ness, and dooms to death when we trans - gress.
tate and turn from sin be - fore too late.
light and should be done as good and right.
sounds and keeps their wick - ed - ness in bounds.

- 5 The law is good, but since the fall
its holiness condemns us all;
it dooms us for our sin to die
and has no pow'r to justify.
- 6 To Jesus we for refuge flee,
who from the curse has set us free,
and humbly worship at his throne,
saved by his grace through faith alone.

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: John 2:13-22

RETHINK WORSHIP IN VIEW OF JESUS' ZEAL

- I. His physical zeal accomplished nothing.
- II. His spiritual zeal changes everything.



Cre - ate in me a
 pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
 in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
 pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.



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 may also sign the guest register by the drinking fountain.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

M Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C It is good and right so to do.

M 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

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n 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. (8)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M 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."

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C *(spoken)* Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



O Christ, Lamb of



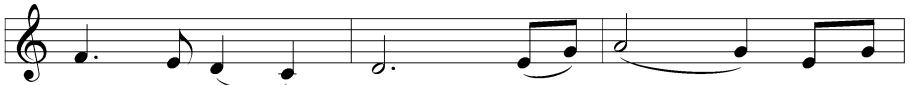
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 558

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.

558 Salvation unto Us Has Come CW 21



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and
2 What God did in his law de - mand and none to him could
3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream that God his law had
4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, sin held its sway un -



fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and
ren - der caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand for man, the
giv - en that sin - ners could them-selves re - deem and by their
ceas - ing; the task was use - less and in vain, our guilt was



save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who
vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those pure de - sires the
works gain heav - en. The law is but a mir - ror bright to
e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's poi - soned dart or



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.
spir - it of the law re - quires, and lost is our con - di - tion.
bring the in - bred sin to light that lurks with - in our na - ture.
pu - ri - fy our wick - ed heart, so deep is our cor - rup - tion.

- 5 Yet as the law must be fulfilled
or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
our human nature sharing.
He has for us the law obeyed
and thus the Father's vengeance stayed
which over us impended.
- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
and brought to us salvation,
each Christian therefore may be glad
and build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
your death is now my life indeed,
for you have paid my ransom.

- 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
your Word cannot be broken;
your call rings out, "Come unto me!"
No falsehood have you spoken.
Baptized into your precious name,
my faith cannot be put to shame,
and I shall never perish.
- 8 The law reveals the guilt of sin
and makes us conscience-stricken;
but then the gospel enters in
the sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
the law no peace can ever give,
no comfort and no blessing.
- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
and rests in him unceasing;
and by its fruits true faith is known,
with love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
works serve our neighbor and supply
the proof that faith is living.
- 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
to Father, Son, and Spirit,
the God who saved us by his grace;
all glory to his merit!
O triune God in heav'n above,
you have revealed your saving love;
your blessed name be hallowed!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr., alt.
Tune: Etlisch Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524
Text and tune: Public domain

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis



In peace, Lord, you let your



ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my



eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for



ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the



glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C his mercy endures forever.

M Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

M We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *(spoken)* Amen.

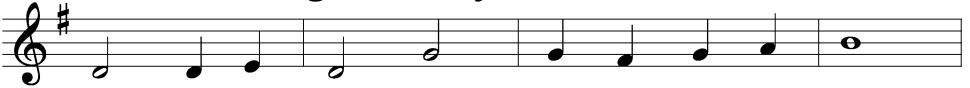
M The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

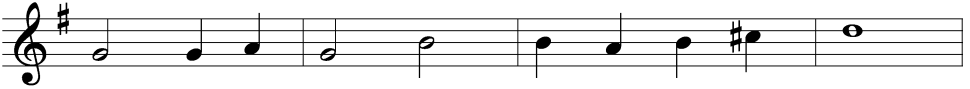
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C *(spoken)* Amen.

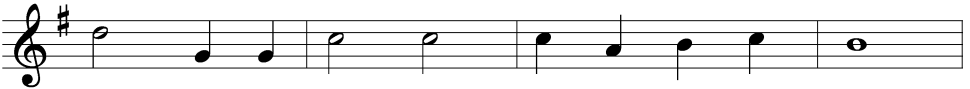
931:1,2,4 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name CW 21



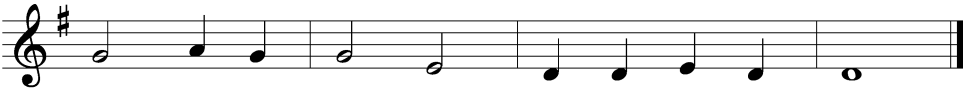
1 Sav - ior, a - gain to thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us thy peace up - on our home-ward way;
4 Grant us thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise.
with thee be - gan, with thee shall end the day.
our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife.



Once more we bless thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
Then, when thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



then, low - ly bend - ing, wait thy word of peace.
that in this house have called up - on thy name.
call us, O Lord, to thine e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, abr.
Tune: Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901
Text and tune: Public domain

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This Week at St. John's: Mar 3, 2024

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Linda Biebert & Jenny Pagenkopf

Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Pat Strangfeld

Donating Bulletins: Henry & Julie Berry

March Website: Henry & Julie Berry

SERVING US WEDNESDAY

Greeters: Pat Strangfeld & Donna Zank

Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Pat Strangfeld

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Betty Nemitz & Virginia Marg

Ushers: Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team

Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY

9:00 AM Communion Service

10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

11:30 AM Sunday School Teachers Meeting

5:00 PM Living Stones Meeting

MONDAY

1:00 PM Pastors Circuit Meeting

4:00 PM Adult Instruction Class

5:15 PM School Board Meeting

Dartball vs. Globe-Christie

TUESDAY

4:00 PM Church Band

7:00 PM Council

WEDNESDAY

8:20 AM Chapel

3:45 PM Confirmation Class

6:00 PM FSJ serves supper

7:00 PM Lenten Worship-Choir sings

THURSDAY

4:00 PM Bible Study

6:30 PM Choir

FRIDAY

No School

FRI-SAT

Luther Prep Basketball Tournament

SATURDAY

Turn clocks ahead one hour tonight

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM Communion 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 will be held today after the worship service for children age 3 through 8th grade.

Youth Group: St. John's Living Stones Youth Group will have a meeting TODAY at 5:00 p.m. at the parsonage. Teens in grades 8-12 are welcome. Tacos, Bible study, and planning future activities (including International Youth Rally details) are on the evening's agenda. If you plan to come, or have questions, contact Linda Biebert at 715-743-3015 so there will be enough food.

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

Supper: Our Friends of St. John's group will be serving supper this Wednesday, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. The menu includes several types of homemade soups, crackers, bread, pies and ice cream. 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 "Misunderstandings."**

Pastor Biebert will be leading our service. The choir 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.

Basketball: At our basketball games this past Thursday, both teams won. Our A-Team finished the regular season with just one loss. We congratulate both teams on their seasons!

Our A-Team will be wrapping up their season as they travel to Luther Prep in Watertown this Friday and Saturday to participate in the annual tournament.

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!

FIG: The March edition of "Forward In Christ" is available in the entryway.

Calendars: March calendars are available in the entryway.

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.

Choir/Band Supper: Thank you to all who supported our choir and band groups by providing food, help, and monetary contributions. All was greatly appreciated!

Winter Carnival: A very special "thank you" goes out to all who attended our Kids Carnival on February 24th. We had a great turnout; the gym was full! We would also like to offer a special "thank you" to everyone who helped out with the carnival by baking cakes or cupcakes, giving monetary donations, or helping out that day. It takes a lot of work to put the carnival together and run it, and we had a great number of awesome volunteers. We also want to thank Mark Studinski from Rock 'n Roll To Go Plus for loaning us his sno cone and cotton candy machines, as well as the bounce houses and slide. Thanks for all the support!!

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.

Last year, we participated in this contest and took 11th out of over 150 different schools/groups. With a limited choice of options, we chose to get an electric violin. We are going to sell that instrument in hopes to get other instruments we can eventually use.

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/>

This being our third year of giving instrumental lessons, we currently have seven students learning and using their God given gifts and abilities to serve the Lord; what a blessing! On behalf of our beginning and returning instrumentalists we thank you for your support. God is good, all the time!

Serving You In Christ-Mr. Brandon Leiterman

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 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 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 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.*



Student of the Week: The student of the week is Jaeger Anding. Jaeger is in 5th Grade. He has been setting a good example in the classroom-showing his fellow classmates how they should be treating each other-is a hard worker, is polite and friendly, and is almost always happy. **Congratulations Jaeger!**

Hospitalized: **Jane Zank** is hospitalized at the Black River Falls hospital (Rm 2221), where she continues to recuperate.

Erland Greeler was hospitalized in Marshfield but was expecting to be moved back to Three Oaks in Marshfield. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Special Gifts: \$45.00 was given to Home in memory of Mae Weber. Thank you!

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.

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 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.

Letter from School Counselor:

"Greetings members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

I would like to begin by introducing myself. My name is Peter Micheel, and I have served as the principal at St. Mark Lutheran School in Eau Claire since 2010. I have also served as the school counselor for St. John's Lutheran School since the fall of 2014. As part of my role as school counselor, I make an annual visit to your school. This {past} Friday, February 23, I visited your school. I will briefly share a few highlights that I made during my visit.

First, I was truly amazed at the warm and welcoming school climate that radiates from your building. As soon as I entered the door, your secretary, Judy, and Pastor Biebert were there to greet me. Since I have had the opportunity to make visits for the last several years, it has also been neat to get to know each of your called teachers on a more personal basis. Each conversation becomes even more meaningful as I better get to know each one of them and their trust in me as their school counselor also grows.

Second, while meeting with your pastor and each teacher individually, I shared a brief devotional thought that focused on the apostle Paul's directions to Timothy to Continue in the things you have learned and about which you have become convinced. (II Timothy 3:14b) Our schools' missions are to assist our families with the Christian Education they desire for their children. Just like split firewood increases the surface area to burn wood more efficiently in a campfire so also our

schools increase the surface area for the Holy Scriptures as our students study the Bible on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit continues to grow their faith as they learn of God's plan of salvation through Jesus. Following the devotion, I asked each person a few questions and listened to both their joys and concerns in their various vocations. I also noted how special it is to enjoy stability among your congregation and school as you enjoy a third year with the same Called Workers. Your staff brings much experience to the table to guide them in their decision making and carrying out your school's mission. God has blessed you with a stable foundation.

I urged each of your teachers to continue to grow both professional and spiritually by making their Ministry Development Plans an active part of their ministry to support this growth. Please support and encourage them to do this.

Third, I know that your congregation still faces challenges. What a neat issue that you face in your early childhood center as you are filled to capacity and are navigating how to fit in more families that are on your waiting list! What a blessing to face such a challenge on where you can put students within your facility! At St. Mark, we too are wrestling with such an issue as well. God has greatly blessed our WELS Schools since pulling through the challenging pandemic.

Finally, I also encourage your Board of Education to continue to research in joining the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program and/or the Special Needs Scholarship Program. Both programs require a lot of time and energy, and if your school enters into these programs, it sounds like you have a member who is willing to help with much of the administrative work in this process. Both programs fit well with our schools' mission statements by providing the opportunity for both member families and families in the community to financially afford the Christian education that your school provides. It also can financially provide resources to your congregation to hire extra people to provide better support for your students that have important needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to come and visit. Your congregation and school will continue to be in my prayers.

So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

Serving Jesus," Peter J. Micheel

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!

316NOW: 316NOW is a ministry of Confessional Lutherans who are committed to bringing the gospel to the Chinese people by empowering Chinese church leaders through Scripture study and mentoring. They also help Lutheran churches to develop. They provide a thorough online curriculum for church leaders. They personally work with students so they continue their journey toward Confessional Lutheranism and so they can best care for God's people and their communities.

Several brochures from 316NOW are available on the table in the entryway. The brochures include prayer guides to make use of throughout the month to keep the people of China in your prayers. Please feel free to pick one up.

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Last Sunday: 110
Last Wednesday: 90

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given Last Sunday:
\$9,778.21 (Home); \$505.06 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: \$8,400.00

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE through myEoffering

1)Go to our website at www.stjohnsneillsville.com

2)Click on the Church button.



3)Once you are on the Church page, scroll down a little and click on the picture “donate now-myEoffering” (on the right side of the page.) This link will take you to the Eoffering page.

4)You will need to set up an account for yourself. You can choose to have your payment taken from your bank account or from a credit card. Once you get through the set-up process, you will be emailed a verification link that you will need to click on.

5)Once your account is created, you will need to search for and select St. John’s Lutheran Church. Look for the 711 W 5th St. address to be sure you are in the right spot.

6)Once you have found our church page, you will see a list of funds from which to select. You will be able to determine the amount and frequency of your offering.

7)There is a 30 cent processing fee per transaction. You will be given a choice whether or not you want to add that 30 cents to your offering. That is completely up to you. If you don't wish to add that to your offerings, it will be covered by the church.

8)As soon as you have finished the process, it shows up on our administrative page, and your offering will be recorded as soon as it is deposited into our account (takes up to six days).

9)This process can also be done with your mobile phone. Scan the code below to get started.



MyEoffering is safe-it uses the latest encryption technologies to protect your private information.

This system is new to us, so please let us know if you have any problems or difficulties.

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)