

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Blessed



are those who

have not seen

and yet have

believed

John 20:29

Easter 2

April 7 & 9, 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.

Easter: St. Paul writes, "Christ has *indeed* been raised from the dead". The resurrection is not legend. It really happened. Easter is not just a holiday. Easter is history. The reality is: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior, and Jesus' resurrection proves that "all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future, but the way we look at life now.

Today is Easter 2. Our focus today: Resurrection Reality: Jesus gives us proof and peace.

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

Advent							Christmas					Epiphany							Lent								
December 2023							January 2024					February 2024															
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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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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													
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
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31																											
Season After Pentecost																											
June 2024							July 2024							August 2024													
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
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30																											
September 2024							October 2024							November 2024													
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14			1	2	3	4	5						1	2							
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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									

We are Here

449 This Joyful Eastertide CW 21



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide a - way with sin and
2 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the
3 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill
slum - ber till trump from east to west



has sprung to life this mor - row.
my pass - ing soul de - liv - er.
shall wake the dead in num - ber.

Refrain



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on,



our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; but now has Christ a - ris - en!

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848-1934
Tune: Davids Psalmen, Amsterdam, 1684
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of Word and Sacrament 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: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.**

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: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



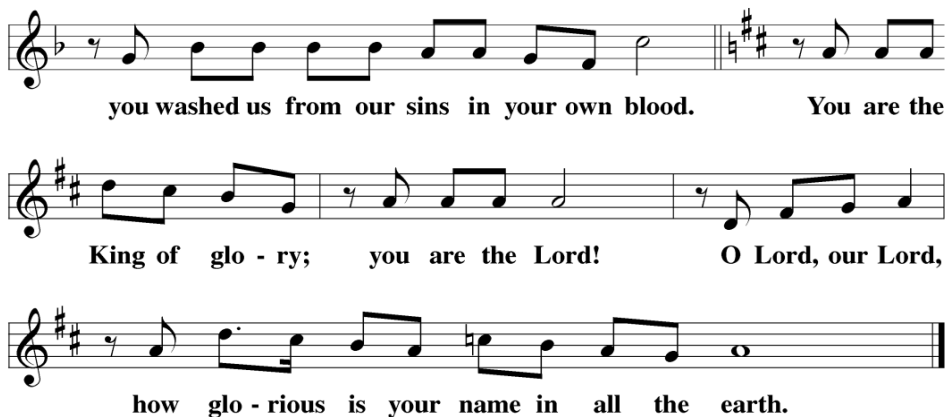
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;



you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

M: Let us pray.
 O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

First Lesson: Acts 18:1-11

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them. ³Because he had the same occupation, he stayed and worked with them, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴Every Sabbath he led a discussion in the synagogue, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

⁵When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was entirely devoted to preaching the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶But when they opposed Paul and slandered him, he shook out his clothes and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!"

⁷He left that place and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshipper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸Crispus, the synagogue leader, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.

⁹One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid, but keep on speaking, and do not be silent. ¹⁰For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, because I have many people in this city." ¹¹He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Psalm 16 CW 93

Refrain

I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord,
in the land of the liv - ing.

Psalm tone

*

Keep me safe, O God,*
for in you I take refuge.

I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord;*
apart from you I have no good thing."

I have set the LORD always before me.*
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. **Refrain**

My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;*
my body also will rest secure,

because you will not abandon me to the grave,*
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

You have made known to me the path of life;*
you will fill me with joy in your presence.

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 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have touched regarding the Word of Life— ²the life appeared, and we have seen it. We testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We write these things to you so that our joy may be complete.

Verse of the Day: John 20:29b

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia!

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!"

²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." ²²After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe."

²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

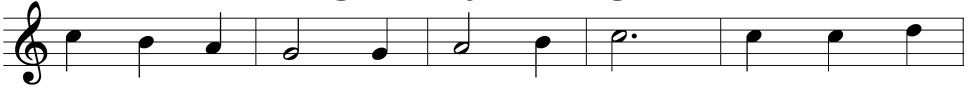
²⁹Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

456 O Sons and Daughters of the King CW 21



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, whom heav'n - ly
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, the faith - ful
3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee, for thus he
4 That night th'a - pos - tles met in fear; a - mong them



hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the grave has lost its sting!
wom - en went their way to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
spoke un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
came their Lord most dear and said, "My peace be with you here."



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 When Thomas afterwards had heard
that Jesus had fulfilled his word,
he doubted that it was the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he,
"my hands, my feet, my body see;
and doubt not, but believe in me."

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God," he cried.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 Blessèd are they that have not seen
and yet whose faith has constant been;
in life eternal they shall reign.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Hymn continues on page 13)

- 9 On this most holy day of days
to God your hearts and voices raise
in laud and jubilee and praise.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615;
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: John 20:19-31

HAPPY EASTER!

- I. Easter gives a happiness centered in peace.**
II. Easter gives a happiness centered in God's Word.

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 may also fill out our guest register by the drinking fountain in the entryway.

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.**

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so 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 right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

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: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: 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.

DISTRIBUTION: *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.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 660

660 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face CW 21



1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
 2 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 3 I have no help but yours nor do I need
 4 Mine is the sin but yours the right - eous - ness;



here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen,
 this is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread a - new.
 an - oth - er arm but yours to lean up - on.
 mine is the guilt but yours the cleans - ing blood.



here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
 Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 It is e - nough, O Lord, e - nough in - deed;
 Here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:



and all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.
 the brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with you.
 my strength is in your might, your might a - lone.
 your blood, your right - eous - ness, O Lord, my God.

5 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
 the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
 The bread and wine remove, but you are here,
 nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
 yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
 giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
 the Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889, abr., alt.
 Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595-1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

Following Hymn 660, you may want to follow along in the blue hymnal as our organist plays through a new Easter hymn, #447.

THANKSGIVING

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
 Serve the Lord with gladness.
 The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



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

511:2,3 Crown Him with Many Crowns

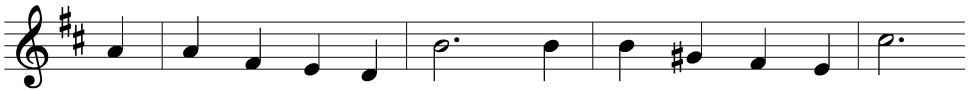
CW 21



2 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave



rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.



No an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high,



but down - ward bends his won - d'ring eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Text (st. 2): Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, abr., alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903
 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893
 Text and tune: Public domain

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This Week at St. John's: Apr 7, 2024

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Dawn Arndt & Anita Berry

Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Linda Biebert & Megan Allard

Donating Bulletins: St. John's Class of 1974 for the 50th anniversary of their confirmation

Donating April Website: Henry & Julie Berry

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Lynn Crothers & Janice Suckow

Ushers: Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team

Altar Guild: Charlene Siebert

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY

9:00 AM Communion Service

10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

11:30 AM Sunday School Teachers Mtg.

MONDAY

1:00 PM Pastors Circuit Meeting

Dartball Banquet

TUESDAY

4:00 PM Church Band

6:00 PM Communion Service

WEDNESDAY

8:20 AM Chapel

3:45 PM Confirmation Class

THURSDAY

6:30 PM Choir

SATURDAY

1:00 PM Pine Car Derby & Chili Cook-Off

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM Communion Service

10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Maundy Thursday: 90

Good Friday: 175

Last Sunday: 68 + 120 = 188

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given Last Sunday:

\$9,718.25 (Home); \$3,028.07 (Missions)

Needed per week for Home: \$8,400.00

CHURCH NEWS

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

Sunday School: Sunday School resumes today after the worship service. All children age 3 through 8th grade are welcome!

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

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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: St. John's Outreach Survey: Fellow members who we see regularly, fellow members who we sadly have not seen for some time, friends who are visiting our church, or families who are using our elementary school and early learning center, we want to hear from you and value your input in this short survey. Thanks for participating!

To access this short survey go to the link:

<https://shorturl.at/jlzH4> or scan the QR code.



Several hard copies of the survey are on the table in the entryway for those who do not have computer or cell phone access.

Spring Mission Fest: Mark your calendars for our spring Mission Festival, which will be Sunday, April 21. Pastor Jacob Behnken, Dean of Chapel and Professor of Music at Martin Luther College, will be our guest preacher and will be giving a presentation on MLC after the worship service in the gym.

Our Day Camp staff will be providing a picnic-type lunch after the presentation. We hope many of you can stay and enjoy learning more about MLC and also enjoy extra fellowship with each other.

Pine Car Derby: We will be having a Pine Car Derby this coming 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.

St. John's Pioneer Chili Cook-off: Calling all Chili Cooks! St. John's Pioneers will host a Chili Cook-off contest during the Pine Car Derby on April 13th! All members of St. John's - Neillsville, St. John's - Christe, and Immanuel - Globe are invited to compete for the Wooden Spoon!

Please bring your crock of Chili to St. John's - Neillsville by noon. Voting will take place during the pinecar derby. The Winner will be announced during the awards ceremony after the race. Judged by popular vote.

Not a cook? Come and vote for the best Chili. Then purchase a bowl of your favorite for a donation to the Pioneers. All proceeds will help pay for the many activities the pioneers enjoy throughout the year.

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

Monday, April 22, through Friday, April 26, 7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday, April 26 from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Proceeds help make our original school bathrooms handicap accessible!

If anyone is need of large garbage bags, we have some extras available in the church entryway, as well as extra sheets giving details on the item collection and drop off.

**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.*

Call Received: *"Dear Members of St. John's, On Sunday, March 24, I received a Divine Call to serve as principal at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Beverly Hills, FL. Megan also was called to serve as their first-grade teacher. It is always a humbling experience to receive a call to serve our Lord. It is also a wonderful blessing to serve the Lord in this manner and to have the opportunity to tell children, along with their families, about the saving truths found in the message of our Savior. As we once again go through the deliberation process, please keep our family in your prayers and do not hesitate to reach out.*

The following passage provides us confidence and serves as a good reminder for everyone to keep in mind as well during this deliberation process knowing that our good Lord will work all things out in the best interest for both schools.

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Call upon me and pray to me, and I will listen to you.'-Jeremiah 29:11-12

Serving In Christ," --Mike & Megan Allard

Coffee Orders: *The coffee orders are ready to be picked up. You will find them on the table in the entryway.*

Bake Sale: *Living Stones Youth Group will be having a bake sale at church on Sunday, April 21st. Proceeds will go toward costs for attending the International Youth Rally this June in Colorado. Enjoy the opportunity to pick up something yummy and donate to a good cause.*

Financial Reports: *First quarter financial reports are available on the table in the entryway. Please feel free to pick one up.*

LWMS Spring Rally: *If you would like to attend the LWMS Spring Rally on Saturday, April 20th, and are interested in carpooling, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway.*

MLC In Focus: *Several copies of the Spring 2024 edition of the Martin Luther College "In Focus" magazines are available in the entryway. Please feel free to pick one up.*

WELS Weekly Prayer: *Christian Aid and Relief – Lord, our compassionate and gracious God, open our eyes to see the needs of people in our communities and move us to show compassion. We thank you that, through the support of WELS Christian Aid and Relief, our churches can do more to help our neighbors in need. May our compassion for others reflect your compassion for them and our trust in you. We pray that your Holy Spirit will use our efforts to communicate that we love because you first loved us. May your gospel move many more to believe in you. Amen.*

TOGETHER



April 2, 2024

God-given workers for his harvest field


The number of vacancies for pastor, teacher, and staff minister positions continues to present a real challenge for congregations throughout our synod. At the direction of last summer's synod convention, a special task force has been formed to study the issue of enrollment at our synodical schools and bring recommendations regarding how we can encourage more young people to prepare for the public ministry.

Thankfully, we are approaching the month of May when some relief will be provided for the vacancy situation. The Conference of Presidents will be meeting as the synod's Assignment Committee to assign teacher and staff minister candidates from Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn., and to assign pastoral candidates at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Mequon, Wis., to their first calls.

This year at MLC, 145 candidates will be available for assignment. Some of those will be teachers who will be assigned to their first calls; others who were assigned for one year last year will either be permanently assigned to the call in which they are now serving or be re-assigned to new locations. Thirty-seven of the candidates are restricted in where they can serve due to marriage or other circumstances. Many of these will be assigned in May; others will receive assignments in the weeks and months after call day.

At WLS, 27 men will be assigned as pastors. Most of those will serve in parishes; several will be assigned to one-year calls in one of our ministerial education schools as tutors. The Assignment Committee, with the input of the seminary, will also assign 40 men as vicars in congregations throughout our synod. Many of those will be assigned as "Vicars in Mission" to home mission congregations.

Assignment days at MLC and WLS are joyful days—joyful for the young men and women who learn where God will have them serve in the ministry and joyful for the members of the synod who see God keeping his promise to send workers into his harvest field. Keep giving thanks to God for these gifts to his church and keep praying that God will provide even more workers in the years to come.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

Spring 2024 Home Missions' milestones

A number of home mission congregations have experienced major milestones so far in 2024.

Refuge Church, Durham, N.C.
Rev. Doug Lange was called to plant a new home mission church in Durham,

N.C., in 2021. The June 2023 WELS Connection showed Refuge in the early stages of development where the core group began to plan its ministry and look for opportunities to share Jesus with the community. Through many prayers, extensive planning, and outreach, God blessed the efforts, and Refuge launched public worship on Jan. 21 at a coworking space in downtown Durham.

New mission start, Idaho Falls, Idaho
On Sat., Feb. 10, Rev. Paul Krueger was installed as the home missionary for a new mission start in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Members of the core group traveled to Cross of Christ in Boise to participate in the installation service. This new mission was one of the first new missions approved as part of the 100 Missions in 10 Years initiative.

CrossView, Windsor, Colo.

On March 3, CrossView Church in Windsor, Colo., launched its public worship. This home mission plant was approved in 2022 and welcomed more than 85 guests to its opening worship service.

Home Missionary Stephen Koelpin arrived in January 2023 to work with the core group and prepare for the official launch. CrossView received a donated trailer from a home mission church in Arizona and items for its portable church from the nearby home mission church in Castle Rock, Colo. After renting a local elementary school to host worship, the group held four preview services starting in January 2024 in preparation for the launch. Learn more about what the core group in Windsor did to prepare to start

its church in this special video: wels100in10.net/lightindarkness.

Living Hope, Chattanooga, Tenn.

On March 24, Living Hope in Chattanooga, Tenn., celebrated the grand reopening of its newly renovated facility. Living Hope began as a new home mission in May 2017 and has worshiped in a movie theater, hotel conference room, and a university campus church since then. Thanks to over \$350,000 in matching land and facility grants and a loan from WELS Church Extension Fund, the congregation purchased its current facility in December 2021. Now, the newly renovated space is complete and equipped to serve the congregation and community.

New start and enhancement requests received

WELS Home Missions has received requests to start 16 new home mission churches and support 17 enhancements at existing congregations across North America.

Each request will be thoroughly reviewed by a dedicated team of Board for Home Missions (BHM) members. The entire BHM will meet April 18-19 to review and evaluate the requests. The approved requests will be the second round of home mission churches approved toward the synod's goal of starting 100 new missions and enhancing 75 existing ministries in the next 10 years.

Learn more about the first year of approvals and how you can get involved at wels100in10.net.

Stay connected to WELS mission and ministry:  [WELSlutherans](https://www.facebook.com/WELSlutherans)  [WELSlutherans](https://twitter.com/WELSlutherans)

WELS offers a variety of devotions and newsletters that can be directly delivered to your inbox. Visit wels.net/subscribe.



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit wels.net/together.

To assist you in worship:

- ✠ Personal listening devices are available for anyone to use. Please talk to the ushers for assistance.
- ✠ Large-print bulletins available 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

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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)