



# The Buzz

November 30, 2023

## WALK WITH GOD—TALK WITH GOD Where Should We Pray?

*"When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." -Matthew 6:6*

Where is your favorite place to pray? Many people like to pray when they are lying in bed. Some pray on their knees beside their beds. Others like to be in a room all by themselves as they talk with the Lord. What can we learn about where we should pray?

In school, we pray sitting behind a desk or standing. In church, we often stand at the church seat and pray. Can you remember where some of our Bible friends were when they prayed? The Apostle Peter once prayed when he was standing on top of a roof. People of the early church enjoyed meeting down by the river to pray. The Bible tells us that Paul and Silas prayed when they were locked up in a jail cell. In the Old Testament we hear of Gideon who prayed while he was working in the barn threshing wheat. And, of course, we remember Samuel speaking to God while lying on his bed late one night. Jesus often went off into the hills where he could be alone to talk with his Father.

Did you know that someone prayed from inside a fish? That would be Jonah. We know the story of Jonah, the prophet who tried to run away from the task God had given him. While running, there arose a frightening storm that was about to capsize the boat in which Jonah was sailing. So, he asked the sailors to throw him into the sea to appease God's anger. Down, down he sank into the sea until he was eaten by a huge fish. And there he stayed for three days. Remember what he did during that time? What would you do? Jonah prayed. His prayer is very interesting to read. This is what Jonah said to God: "In my distress I called to you, the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled around me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God. I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you. With a song of thanksgiving I will sacrifice to you" (Jonah 2).

We know that the Lord heard Jonah, even from the belly of that fish. After he prayed, Jonah was spit out onto dry ground where he could once again carry out God's commands.

So, where should we pray? Jesus gave a suggestion when he said, "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." That is an ideal place where we can concentrate so we can talk to God without any distractions. Jesus didn't mean we can't be elsewhere when we pray. Jesus heard the criminal's prayer when he was hanging on the cross. Wherever we happen to be is a great place to talk with God. God will hear us if we are riding our bicycle, seated at a basketball game, in a boat fishing, or in the middle of the night. It is our prayers that count, not where we are or what hour of the day it might be. God loves to listen to us!

In Christ, Mike Allard, Principal @ St. John's

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, Dec 3

Worship 9:00 am  
Sunday School 10:15 am  
Advent for Women  
2:00 pm

### Monday, Dec 4

Dartball @ Greenwood

### Tuesday, Dec 5

BB Practice 3:30-5:15

### Wednesday, Dec 6

Chapel 8:20 am

### Thursday, Dec 7

BB Practice 3:30-5:15

### Sunday, Dec 10

Worship 9:00 am  
Sunday School 10:15 am  
Bible Class 10:15 am

### Tuesday, Dec 12

NO BREAKFAST

BB Practice 3:30-5:15

### Wednesday, Dec 13

NO BREAKFAST

Chapel 8:20 am

Pioneers 5:30 pm

### Thursday, Dec 14

NO BREAKFAST

BB Practice 3:30-5:15

### Friday, Dec 15

Faculty-Staff Christmas  
Party 5:30 pm

### Sunday, Dec 17

Gr. K-8 Christmas Program  
9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Bible Class 10:15 am

### Monday, Dec 18

Dartball @ Globe-Christie

## Advent Program for Women Hosted by St. John's Lights Group

Sunday, December 3rd

2:00-4:00pm

St. John's Lutheran Church

Neillsville, WI

Enjoy devotion and fellowship while refocusing on our Savior's coming during this busy Christmas Season!

RSVP to the Church Office: 715-743-2501

**BB Practice:** Our first basketball practices for both boys and girls will be held next week, as listed below:

**Tuesday, Dec 5: 3:30-5:15**

**Thursday, Dec 7: 3:30-5:15**

**Pioneers Cookie Decorating & Christmas Party:** Our Pioneer group will be having a special meeting on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 to decorate cookies to be put into care packages for our shut-in members. Some supplies are needed: cut-out sugar cookies, white frosting, apples, oranges, string cheese, and fudge. If you are able to help by donating any of these items, please contact Mrs. Shadrack at 715-897-0903. Thank you!

We will also be having our Pioneer Christmas party this night. Boys should bring a gift for a boy, and girls should bring a gift for a girl (\$5-\$10 gift). Children can bring snacks if they wish.

## 12/17-K-8 Christmas Service &

**12/19-3K/4K Christmas Service:** All students are expected to participate in our children's Christmas services. We wanted to give parents a heads-up so that you can plan accordingly. This is part of our religion curriculum.

The service on Dec 17 will be at 9:00 a.m.

The service on Dec 19 will be at 6:00 p.m.

**Christmas Service Music:** We are looking for students who would be willing to play or sing pre-service music for our children's Christmas service on December 17<sup>th</sup>. If your son or daughter would like to participate, please talk to Mrs. Sternitzky, or you may call the school office at 715-743-2501.

**Breakfast Schedule:** Since Mrs. Coleman and Mrs. Fields will both be gone various times during **the week of December 11<sup>th</sup>, WE WILL NOT BE SERVING BREAKFAST TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, OR THURSDAY THAT WEEK.** Lunch will be served as normal all week.

**Bruce Mound Outing:** Grades 2-8 will be having a fun day at Bruce Mound on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, weather permitting. Permission sheets and rental forms were sent home this week. Please return those, along with payment, as soon as possible. We will need drivers so please consider coming along!

**Camp Phillip Scholarships:** Our Friends of St. John's group (parent organization) has funds set aside to provide scholarships for students who would like to go to Camp Phillip in Wautoma next summer. If you are interested in sending your children and would like to apply for a scholarship, please fill out the Google form (link listed below) by December 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will discuss the scholarship applications at our next parent meeting in January. (Camp Phillip registration opens up February 1<sup>st</sup>.)

<https://forms.gle/3e3rcGz5w63HTjyq7>

## **School/ELC Schedule:**

**Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>:** School will dismiss at **noon**. Busing will be available, both for morning drop-off and going home at noon. **WE WILL NOT BE SERVING LUNCH TO STUDENTS IN K-8 THAT DAY.**

Lunch will still be served for those children who are staying for childcare.

There will be NO SCHOOL for 3K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade from **December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>**, as we enjoy our Christmas break. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The ELC will be CLOSED **December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Amazon Wish List:** If you're interested in purchasing Christmas gifts for the K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade classroom, Mrs. Shadrick has updated her Amazon wish list with items she would like for the classroom. To access her list, go to:

<https://a.co/6PmhZSp>



### **Noah Wilke**



The student of the week is Noah Wilke. Noah is in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. He works hard and sets a good example at not only getting his work done, but also on being polite and respectful, both in the classroom and on the sports field.

***Congratulations Noah!***





# CHRISTMAS

TREE LIGHTING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST 2023

SNITEMAN TOWN SQUARE  
NEILLSVILLE, WI

Caroling Begins at 5:30 PM  
Miss Neillsville Lights Tree at 6PM

**SANTA VISITS TO FOLLOW**