## St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

711 & 805 W 5<sup>th</sup> St., Neillsville, WI 54456 Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



## Easter 2 -- April 11 & 13, 2021

## "Welcome Visitors and Members!"

(Visitors, you may find helpful information on the back cover.)

Focus: The Risen Savior gives us peace.

## 145

## Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won



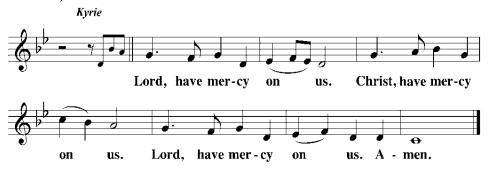
Text: Christian F. Gellert, 1715–69, abr.; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1815–97, alt. Tune: Jesus, Meine Zuversicht (78 78 77) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

- 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.
- 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



- 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 (4) and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** (spoken) Amen.

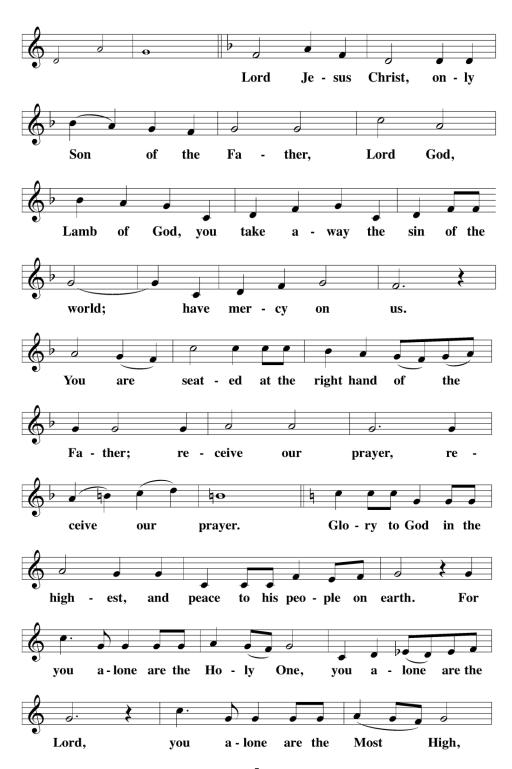
#### PRAYER AND PRAISE

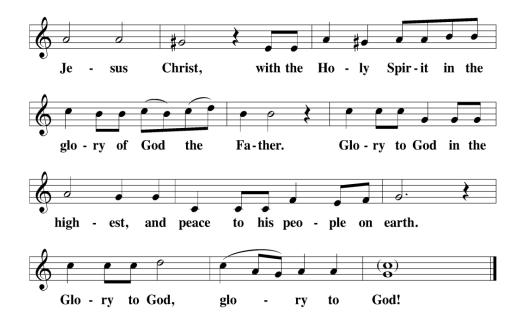
M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## **GLORY TO GOD**

Gloria in Excelsis







### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **M** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- 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 (spoken) Amen.

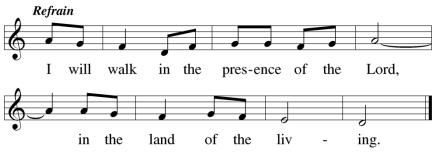
#### THE WORD

## Old Testament Reading: Acts 3:12-20

<sup>12</sup>When Peter saw this, he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us, as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you. <sup>15</sup>You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup>And on the basis of faith in his name, it is the name of Jesus that has strengthened this man, whom you see and know. This faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>"Now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just like your leaders. <sup>18</sup>But in this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through the mouth of all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Therefore repent and return to have your sins wiped out, <sup>20</sup>so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.







Keep me <u>safe</u>, O God,\* for in you I take <u>refuge</u>.

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

I have set the LORD always be<u>fore</u> me.\*

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be <u>shaken</u>. *Refrain* 

My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;\* my body also will <u>rest</u> secure,

because you will not abandon me <u>to</u> the grave,\* nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

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

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

## New Testament Reading: 1 John 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. <sup>2</sup>The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup>We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We write this to make our joy 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!

## Gospel Reading: John 20:24-31

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



<sup>24</sup>But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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."

<sup>26</sup>After 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. <sup>27</sup>Then 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."

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

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

<sup>30</sup>Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But 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.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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.

## 165

## O Sons and Daughters of the King



- 6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he, "My hands, my feet, my body see; And doubt not, but believe in me." Alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied; He saw the feet, the hands, the side; "You are my Lord and God," he cried. Alleluia!
- 8 Blessèd are they that have not seen And yet whose faith has constant been; In life eternal they shall reign. Alleluia!
- 9 On this most holy day of days To God your hearts and voices raise In laud and jubilee and praise. Alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Gelobt sei Gott (888 with Alleluias) Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615, alt.

## SERMON TEXT: John 20:24-31

## CAN WE EVER GET ENOUGH EASTER PEACE?

- I. Unbelief and doubt make war against God.
- II. Taking God at His Word gives peace.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



#### 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.

now and forever. Amen.

#### THE SACRAMENT

#### **PREFACE**

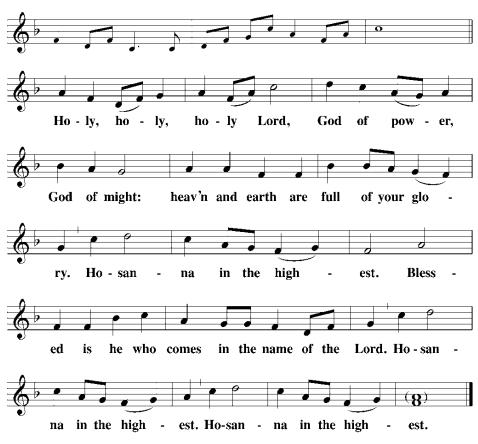
- M The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- M Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them up to the Lord.
- M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C It is good and right so to do.
- M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.

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



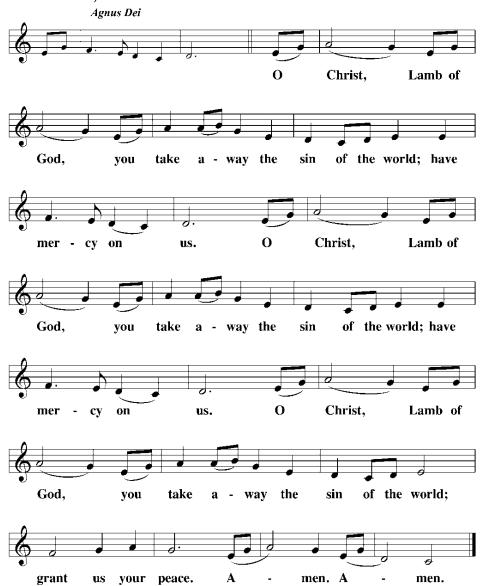
#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 \$\dagger\$ 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. (spoken) Amen.

### O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



### DISTRIBUTION (no distribution hymn)

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.

#### SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis



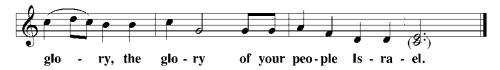


ser - vant now de - part ac - cord-ing to your word.



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





- M O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
- C And his mercy endures forever.
- M O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through 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.

## 341

## **Crown Him with Many Crowns**



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, st. 1-2, 4, abr., alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3.

Tune: DIADEMATA (SM D) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

# This Week at St. John's: April 11, 2021 SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Judith Quicker & Nancy Hagedorn

Ushers: Team 1- Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

<u>Donating Bulletins:</u> Ed & Jenn Schmid Donating Website in April: Gloria Hamm

## SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

<u>Greeters:</u> Donna Anding & Rosie Murphy <u>Ushers:</u> Team 2- Verlyn Shaw's team

Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**Sunday School:** Sunday School will be held today from 10:15-11:30 in the school for Grades 1-8. Children in PreK and Kindergarten are invited down to the church basement from 10:15-11:15 for a Bible story, activities, and play time.

**Bible Class:** Bible Class will be held as normal today. Please join us in the church basement after the worship service.

**Tuesday Worship:** We will resume our Tuesday evening worship services starting this Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00.

**Free-Will Donations:** The Living Stones Youth Group would like to thank all who so generously donated to the free will Easter offering. A total of \$103.00 was donated toward their group.

**FIC:** The April edition of "Forward In Christ" is available in the entryway.

**Calendars:** April church calendars are available in the entryway.

**Hospitalized:** Bob Cords, whose surgery went well, will be hospitalized for about another week or so as he recuperates. Al Bearder's two surgeries went well. He is expecting to be home soon. Let's keep them in our prayers.

**Thrivent Choice:** \$226 was donated for the bell fund, \$211 for Home expenses, and \$315 to the school through the Thrivent Choice program. Thank you!

**Member Update:** One of our shut-in members, Angie Dux, has moved to 3 Oaks Health Services, 209 Wilderness View Dr in Marshfield.

**Playground Fundraiser:** We wanted to give the members of our congregation, along with families and children in our school and ELC, a chance to help raise money for our playground over the month of April. We are offering Berres Brothers coffee, personalized to our school with special names. We are selling 10 oz. bags and K-cups of a variety of coffees for \$10 each. Order forms are available on the table in the entryway. Please spread the word and ask family members and friends to help us out. The last day to order is May 6<sup>th</sup>. Order forms and checks can be turned in to the school office. All proceeds will go to the ELC playground fund.

WELS Weekly Prayer: Mission in North Liberty, Iowa -Heavenly Father, thank you for giving Good Shepherd in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the opportunity to begin a second site in North Liberty. Be with the core group in North Liberty, which has the deep desire and dedication to spread your gospel in that area. Help the leaders and members of Good Shepherd to remain focused and energized despite any obstacles that may arise against this multi-site ministry. Bless their evangelism efforts as they create and build relationships through events and activities. Move a second pastor to accept this call and bolster their outreach efforts through his ministry there. Thank you for the generous mission offerings that make this ministry expansion possible. Your Word does not return to you empty. We trust this promise as we keep your people in North Liberty and Cedar Rapids in our prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **Worship the Lord with Gladness:**

Maundy Thursday: 98; Good Friday: 98; Easter: 150

## **Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:**

Thankoffering Given Last Week: \$11,822.00

## **TOGETHER**



April 6, 2021

## 2021 synod convention preparations

The 66th biennial synod convention will be held at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wis., July 26-28. The theme of the convention is "Here We Stand," echoing Martin Luther's bold stand on the Word of God at the Diet of Worms in 1521.

The location of the convention was changed from Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Mich., to Luther Prep because of the uncertainties of gathering restrictions in Michigan.

Another change that was made due to those same uncertainties was to hold a "mini-convention." Instead of the usual 400 delegates, only about 75 delegates will attend the convention in person. Those delegates will include floor committee chairmen and secretaries, along with two lay delegates from each floor committee. (Floor committees are each assigned an area of the synod's work to discuss and to bring reports and resolutions to the convention for consideration.) The remaining delegates will participate electronically in elections and floor committee work in advance of the convention. The convention will also be livestreamed to enable all virtual delegates to observe.

Important items of business to be considered by the convention will be the approval of the Ministry Financial Plan (budget) for the next two years; the proposal to change the current pension plan for WELS workers to a defined contribution plan (similar to a 401(k) plan); and the elections for various synodical positions, including the First Vice President and synod secretary. The convention will also consider a number of "memorials," which are requests for the synod to take specific actions.

The convention website, which will house all convention information and documents, including election information and memorials, is now live at wels.net/2021synodconvention.

All delegates have received, or will soon be receiving, convention information and registration instructions via U.S. mail.

Serving with you in Christ, WELS President Mark Schroeder ##

# 60 years of blessings and progress

The WELS Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM) is marking 60 years of service to people in Malawi and Zambia. The first clinic began operating in Zambia in 1961; in 1970, CAMM started a clinic in Malawi as well. By meeting the physical needs of the people they serve, the door opens to share the good news of Jesus.

Over the past 60 years, God has given CAMM the opportunity to provide people with physical care in the name of Jesus approximately three million times. The CAMM clinics in Malawi and Zambia serve all the medical needs short of hospitalization for close to 50,000 people, including:

- Routine child health and nutrition services
- Delivery of babies in Zambia (mandated by the government)
- Pre- and post-delivery care
- Comprehensive HIV/AIDS health services
- Outpatient medical services
- Chronic disease monitoring
- Making sure villages have safe water supplies and adequate sanitation
- Teaching on topics such as general health and how to plant and care for nutrition gardens
- Integrating COVID-19
   management strategies to both
   provide care for and minimize
   possible infection transmission

Shelly Sievert, chair of the CAMM stateside committee, says, "As we approach our 60th anniversary in Zambia, we reflect on God's continued grace to our clinic and our staff, which includes ten nationals in Zambia. Our Zambia clinic has been operating with little oversight from the stateside committee for close to 15 years and thrives!"

Now, the Malawi clinic will also shift to operate with a fully national staff. "Although 2020 was a tough year for the world, it gave us time and the opportunity to look at our clinic procedures in Malawi, which have been operational for over 50 years. We currently employ 11 nationals, 1 of whom is a registered nurse," says Sievert. "After 50 years, our CAMM stateside committee, with guidance from the Administration Committee for Africa, and with prayerful consideration, has decided that the time is right. God has provided us the right staff, the right expatriates to train the staff, and the right support to do this."

Sievert says, "We thank God for the opportunity he allows every day for our clinics to operate, for the staff to care for the patients, for the chances our staff is given to share their faith, and for his continued generosity."

To learn more about the work of CAMM and find out how you can help, visit wels.net/camm.

# New virtual academy offers opportunities

The Association of Lutheran High Schools Online (ALHS Online) has a new name and an expanded mission.

For the past ten years, ALHS Online has been offering high-quality online courses to supplement the class offerings of WELS high schools and elementary schools. Beginning this next school year (2021–22), it now also will offer a fully online curriculum—starting with ninth grade and adding a grade level every year—that can lead to a high school diploma.

To highlight this expansion, the school has been renamed Amazing Grace Virtual Academy. "We have been truly blessed over the last ten years and have really seen God's amazing grace in all that he has done to allow us to expand and be of service to WELS schools," says Dr. James Grunwald, superintendent of the academy.

Grunwald says that over the last few years the organization has been receiving more inquiries about expanding its offerings from WELS and Evangelical Lutheran Synod families who don't have the opportunity to send their children to one of WELS' 26 Lutheran high schools. Several grants and gifts plus recent accreditation as an online learning service provider by the Middle States Association helped push this decision forward.

Amazing Grace Virtual Academy will continue to provide courses for part-time students as well. During the 2020–21 school year, about 320 students took courses each semester. It also offers a four-year high school religion curriculum and foreign language and mathematics courses for seventh and eighth graders.

Learn more at amazinggraceva.org. #

# Taste of Missions—an online Missions experience

oin the WELS Missions office for Taste of Missions, an online

missions experience, from July 11-17, 2021. Get to know our synod's home and world missionaries and get a closer look at their mission work through short video updates, activities and recipes for the entire family, daily devotions, and multiple live events where WELS members can come together online and interact with missionaries. Tune in LIVE at the following times throughout the event:

- Sunday, July 11, 1 p.m. CT: Welcome and introduction from Home Missions administrator, Rev. Keith Free, and World Missions administrator, Rev. Larry Schlomer
- Tuesday, July 13, 7 p.m. CT: World Missions Q&A panel
- Thursday, July 15, 7 p.m. CT: Home Missions Q&A panel
- Saturday, July 17, 6 p.m. CT: Closing worship service where, God willing, new missionaries will be commissioned

All WELS grade school teachers are invited to participate in the new Taste of Missions School Challenge before the school year ends. Each class can be entered to win a Taste of Missions party—complete with lunch from an ethnic restaurant in their area, t-shirts, and a Zoom call or in-person visit with a missionary of their choosing (and more!)—by completing provided activities found at tasteofmissions. com/schools by Friday, April 23.

Learn more and register for this free event at tasteofmissions.com. Each day's recommended videos and live events will be promoted on the event website, in e-mails to registered attendees, and on the WELS Missions Facebook page. This annual online event will be paired with an in-person celebration at Wisconsin Lutheran

Seminary in Mequon, Wis., in future years to provide all WELS members an opportunity to connect with brothers and sisters in Christ from around the globe and be a part of the important gospel outreach occurring through our synod.

Register today!

## St. John's Lutheran Church & School

711 & 805 W 5<sup>th</sup> St., Neillsville, WI 54456

Email: <u>stjohns1886@gmail.com</u>

Website: www.stjohnsneillsville.com

Facebook (church): <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/">www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/</a>
Facebook (school): <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/">www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/</a>

Tim Biebert, Pastor: 715-743-3015; <a href="mailto:1fisheromen@gmail.com">1fisheromen@gmail.com</a>

--Church Office: 715-743-2944

Mike Allard, Principal: 715-937-7534; allardmj1@gmail.com

--School Office: 715-743-2501

John Hagedorn, Chairman: 715-743-4653;

hagedornjohnw2@gmail.com

Worship Schedule: Sundays at 9:00am & Tuesdays at 6:00pm Worship Broadcast-Cable Ch. 977: Sun-10:30am & Mon-7pm

### "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.

To assist you in worship, personal listening devices are available for anyone to use. Please talk to the ushers for assistance.

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.

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.