

# **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.**

## ***"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.*

## ***Epiphany 5***

***February 8, 2026***

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us that form and function are closely connected. That means that who we are influences what we do. When God called us to faith, he declared that we were something new: light, salt, his children. Jesus encourages us to be what God says we are as a way of blessing the world through us.

**Our focus today: JESUS REVEALS YOU AS SALT & LIGHT**

***Communion:*** *We will celebrate the Lord's Supper today in the front pews.*

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

# 581 Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose You

CW 21



1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose you; that, I know, could  
2 It was grace in Christ that called me, taught my dark-ened  
3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion, praise the Fa - ther's



nev - er be, for this heart would still re - fuse you  
heart and mind; else the world had yet en - thrall - ed me,  
bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our ex - pi - a - tion,



had your grace not cho - sen me. You re - moved the  
to your heav'n - ly glo - ries blind. Now I wor - ship  
Priest and King en - throned a - bove. Praise the Spir - it



sin that stained me, cleans - ing me to be your own; for this  
none a - bove you; for your grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing  
of sal - va - tion, him by whom our spir - its live. Un - di -



pur - pose you or - dained me, that I live for you a - lone.  
well that, if I love you, you, O Fa - ther, loved me first.  
vid - ed ad - o - ra - tion to the great Je - ho - vah give.


Text: Josiah Conder, 1789–1855, alt.

Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745

Text and tune: Public domain







Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



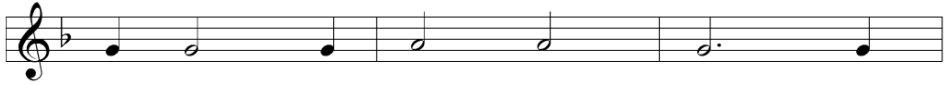
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



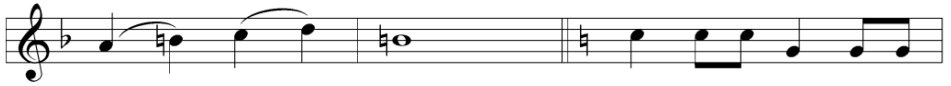
world; have mer - cy on us.



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



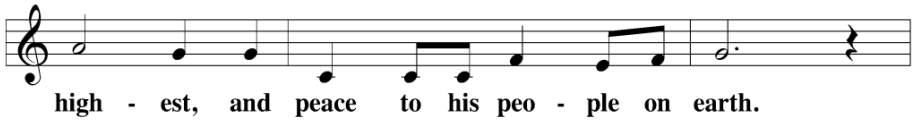
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For



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



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**M** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; 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 Reading: Exodus 19:1-8a**

*<sup>1</sup>In the third month after the Israelites had left the land of Egypt, on that same day of the month, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.*

*<sup>2</sup>After they set out from Rephidim and came to the Wilderness of Sinai, they camped in the wilderness. Israel camped there in front of the mountain.*

*<sup>3</sup>Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup>'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now if you will carefully listen to my voice and keep my covenant, then you will be my special treasure out of all the nations, although the entire earth is mine. <sup>6</sup>You will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.' These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites."*

*<sup>7</sup>Moses went and summoned the elders of the people, and he set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8</sup>All the people answered together, "Everything that the LORD has said, we will do."*

# Psalm 112

# CW 21

## Refrain



Light dawns in the dark-ness for the up - right.

## Tone



Blessed are those who / fear the LORD,  
who find great delight in / his commands.  
Wealth and riches are in their / houses,  
and their righteousness endures for- / ever. **Refrain**

Surely the righteous will never be / shaken;  
they will be remembered for- / ever.  
Their hearts are secure, they will / have no fear;  
in the end they will look in triumph / on their foes.  
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**  
**and to the Holy / Spirit,**  
**as it was in the be- / ginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Text: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version

Tune: Kevin Hildebrand

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Music: © 2010 Kevin Hildebrand. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:9–12**

*<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

*<sup>10</sup>At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.*

*<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and temporary residents in the world, to abstain from the desires of the sinful flesh, which war against your soul. <sup>12</sup>Live an honorable life among the Gentiles so that even though they slander you as evildoers, when they observe your noble deeds, they may glorify God on the day he visits us.*

**Verse of the Day: Matthew 5:16**

*Alleluia! Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Alleluia!*

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-20**



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

*<sup>13</sup>You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its flavor, how will it become salty again? Then it is no good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. No, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way let your light shine in people's presence, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

*<sup>17</sup>Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>Amen I tell you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not even the smallest letter, or even part of a letter, will in any way pass away from the Law until everything is fulfilled. <sup>19</sup>So whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>Indeed I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and experts in the law, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*



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.**

630 Thy Strong Word

CW 21



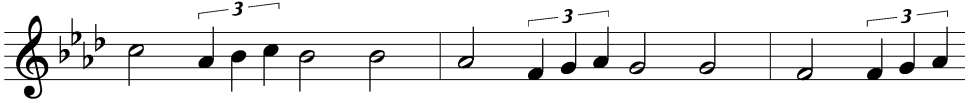
1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with  
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



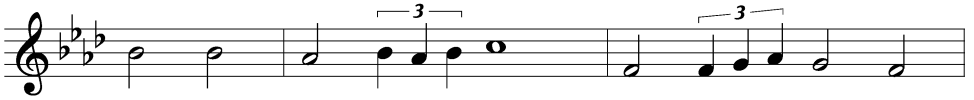
speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we  
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -  
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee while thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath.  
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



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



thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

*(Hymn continues on page 13)*

5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,  
tongues thy mercy to proclaim,  
throats to shout the hope that fills us,  
mouths to speak thy holy name.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the light which thou dost send  
fill our songs with alleluias,  
alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,  
to thee laud and honor be.  
To thee, Light from Light begotten,  
praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
glory, glory be to thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976

Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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Tune: Public domain

## **SERMON TEXT: Matthew 5:13-20**

### **JESUS CALLS YOU A BLESSING ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE**

**I. WHAT AN HONOR!**

**II. WHAT A CHALLENGE!**



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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.

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.

## 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  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

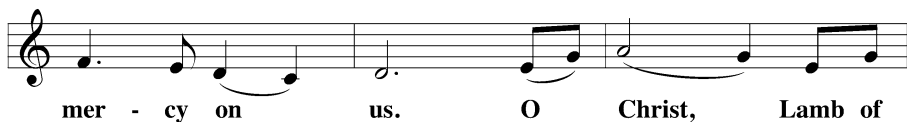
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\text{†}$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** *(spoken)* Amen.

# O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*



**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.

**Distribution Hymn: 558**

## 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.

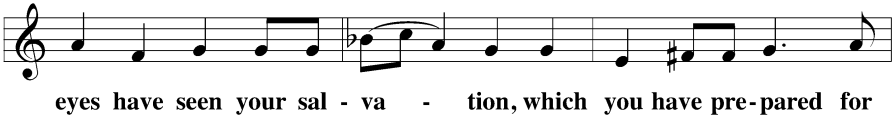
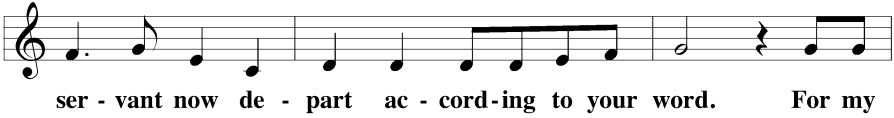
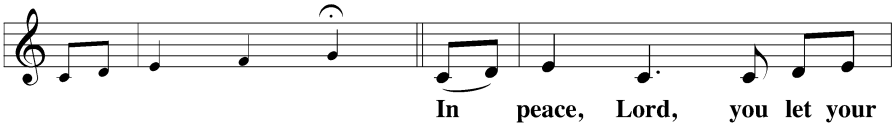
*(Hymn continues on page 19)*

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

# SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*



**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.

# 697 *May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill*

*CW 21*



1 May we your pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill and do on  
2 So may we join your name to bless, your grace a -  
3 Spir - it of life, of love, and peace, u - nite our



earth our Fa - ther's will as an - gels do a - bove;  
dore, your pow'r con - fess, to flee from sin and strife.  
hearts, our joy in - crease, your gra-cious help sup - ply.



still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, with all your  
One is our call - ing, one our name, the end of  
To each of us the bless - ing give in Chris - tian



chil - dren, and o - bey the law of Chris - tian love.  
all our hopes the same: a glo - rious crown of life.  
fel - low - ship to live, in joy - ful hope to die.

Text: Edward Osler, 1789–1863, alt.  
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872  
Text and tune: Public domain

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# ***This Week at St. John's: Feb 8, 2026***

## **SERVING US TODAY**

Greeters: Linda Biebert & Lauren Thell

Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team

Altar Guild: Charlene Siebert

Donating Bulletins: Schmid Family

Feb Website: Dave & Donna Anding for their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## **SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY**

Greeters: Pat Strangfeld & Donna Zank

Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Pat Strangfeld

## **~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~**

<b>TODAY</b>	9:00 AM Communion Service 10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class <b><u>12:00 PM Call Meeting</u></b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	9:00 AM Shut-In Visits 1:00 PM Shut-In Visits 6:00 PM Adult Instruction Class 6:00 PM LIGHTS
<b>TUESDAY</b>	1:15 PM Shut-In Visits
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:20 AM Chapel <i>No Bible Study</i> 6:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Handbells
<b>THURSDAY</b>	1:30 PM Shut-in Visits 5:30 PM Adult Instruction Class
<b>SATURDAY</b>	5:00-8:00 PM Bruce Mound Family Tubing Outing
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9:00 AM Worship Service-Choir sings 10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 6:00 PM Youth Group Meeting at Christie

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

Feb 1<sup>st</sup>-95

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

Thankoffering Given last Sunday:  
\$8,042.00 (Home); \$689.00 (Missions)  
Needed per week for Home: \$9,035.00  
***Owed on line of credit: \$69,285.21***

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**Bible Class:** Join us in the church basement after the worship service today as we continue our study of Apologetics-Defending our Faith.

**Sunday School:** Sunday School classes meet today after the worship service. Grades Pre-K meet in the church basement; Grades 1-4 meet in the school. All children are welcome.

**Call Meeting:** Our first call meeting to call a new pastor will be held **TODAY at noon**. Western Wisconsin District President Michael Jensen will be here with us to run that meeting. He is not able to make it before noon due to other commitments that morning. Because this is so important we strongly encourage as many of our members as possible to make this a priority.

**\*Special Note-Thanks to a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous, there will be pizza, pop, coffee and cookies in the church basement this morning starting at 11:30 for those who will be staying for the Call Meeting. Consider coming to Bible Class after church this morning and then staying for pizza and the Call Meeting. We thank our generous donor, as well as those who are bringing cookies, for providing lunch for us!**

**Care Packages:** Our LIGHTS group will be packing Z care packages to be sent to college/high school students. The boxes will be packed up **tomorrow evening**.

Donations of items to include in the packages are needed and welcomed. Some ideas for donations could include: Kleenex, pens, post-it notes, hand lotion, microwave popcorn, fruit snacks, candy bars, raisins, chips, pudding, dried fruit, cookies, tea, dried soup mix, gum, soap, coffee, etc. Anything that can be individually wrapped works well; the list is almost endless. Cash donations for postage are also needed. Donations can be placed in the entryway.

**Special Care "Package":** One of our members, Colin Neville, is currently living in Thailand with his wife. He is working there as an "Artist Missionary" with the Friends Network. The Friends Network (formerly Friends of China and Friends of Vietnam) is a WELS-affiliated ministry. They recruit, train, send and

support lay missionaries around the world in order to build eternal friendships. We would like to show our support for Colin, but thought that the best way to do that would be to send him a monetary gift. If you would like to donate toward this, PLEASE DO **NOT** PLACE YOUR GIFT IN THE OFFERING BASKET. Instead, you can give it to Linda Biebert, Kathleen Quast, or drop it off in the school office.

We thank everyone for their assistance!

**No Wednesday Bible Study:** Wednesday Bible study is on hold for now, at least until after Easter.

**BB Games:** We have home games this Thursday vs Trinity of Marshfield. The B-Team plays at 4:00 and the A-Team plays at 5:00. Come and cheer for the Hornets!

**Family Tubing Outing:** The Globe and Christie churches are sponsoring a family tubing outing at Bruce Mound this coming Saturday, February 14th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. All are invited. We will be enjoying a pot-luck supper; please consider bringing a dish to pass. Beverages will be provided.

**Youth Group Meeting:** The Youth Group will hold their next meeting on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Christie. All teens are invited!

**Maternity Leave Teacher Needed:** As many of you may already know, the Leitermans are expecting their next baby early April. With that wonderful news we are also actively looking to find a full-time substitute teacher that could cover Mrs. Leiterman's 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom for approximately 6 weeks. We are beginning the process of looking around our area and asking neighboring schools about potential teachers but also want to open the opportunity up to members in our own congregations. To be a substitute teacher in Wisconsin an individual needs to have an associate's degree or higher (in any subject), be enrolled in a bachelor's degree-granting educator program, or hold a valid Wisconsin teaching license. If you are available and interested in helping St. John's in a very big way, please talk to Mr. Allard as soon as possible. We would like to solidify these plans as soon as possible. If you know of somebody who may be able to help us out, please spread the word too!

## **Lent 2026**

The overall theme for the Lenten services for 2026 is **"It Is Finished."** This series explores the prophecies of Zechariah, offering an enriching look at our Savior Jesus, particularly as these prophecies relate to the events of Jesus' Holy Week passion, death, and resurrection.

We will have four pastors in the Lenten rotation this year, Pastor Biebert, Pastor Wilke from Globe/Christie, Pastor Oblender (vacancy pastor at Trinity), and Pastor Seefeldt (retired). On the weeks when supper is served, serving begins at **5:00 p.m.** in the school gym, and all are invited to that as well. The service schedule is below.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18: 6:00 p.m. communion service

Wednesday, Feb. 25: 6:00 p.m. service (GPS serves supper)

Wednesday, Mar. 4: 6:00 p.m. service (Choir/Bells serve)

Wednesday, Mar. 11: 6:00 p.m. service (FSJ serves supper)

Wednesday, Mar. 18: 6:00 p.m. special service with Luther Prep Singers (LIGHTS serve supper)

Wednesday, Mar. 25: 6:00 p.m. service (Pioneers serve)

Maundy Thursday, Apr. 2: 6:00 p.m. communion service

Good Friday, Apr. 3: 1:00 p.m. service

Easter Sunday, Apr. 5: 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. communion services

**Winter Carnival:** Our church's HIS Group (Hands in Service) is sponsoring a children's carnival on Saturday, February 21st as part of Neillsville's Winter Carnival. The children's carnival will be held here in our gym from 11:00-1:00. There will be bounce houses, a cake walk, face painting, a giant slide, concessions, crafts...activities for all ages! Parents are expected to stay while their children are here. Cost will be \$5.00 per child (ages 1-12). Infants and ages 13+ are Free! Cost for the cake walk is \$1. We hope many parents and children can attend!!

**Volunteers are needed to help with the carnival. If you can help out, please sign up on the sheets on the table in the entryway. Thank you!!**



**Student of the Week:** The student of the week is Carter Hannasch. Carter is in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. He is a hard worker, is polite and respectful, and sets a good example both in the classroom and while playing sports. Congratulations Carter!

**Hospitalized:** Bill Oldham continues to recuperate here in Neillsville hospital (swing-bed). Let's keep him in our prayers.

**FIG:** We received complimentary copies of the January edition of "Forward In Christ." In addition to Skye Defourneaux's article, there are many other inspiring and interesting articles, so if you'd like a copy, please feel free to take one. You will find them on the table in the entryway.

**Call Received:** "Dear Members of St. John's,

*I didn't see this one coming-but we do know the One who did! On Sunday, January 18, I received a Divine Call from St. John's Lutheran Church in Lomira, WI to serve as Principal of their school and to be the 5th-6th grades teacher. Megan did not receive a call to teach at St. John's. It has been and continues to be a wonderful blessing for me to serve the Lord here at St. John's as principal, athletic director, and upper grades teacher.*

*It is also humbling to once again be called by another school as Principal and see if my God-given talents and abilities will benefit them and their families. I ask that you keep Megan and I, along with our family, in your prayers and offer your input as we deliberate the two calls I now hold, to serve here at St. John's in Neillsville and the call to serve at St. John's in Lomira.*

*The following passage still provides me confidence and serves as a good reminder for all of us to keep in mind during this deliberation process. We know that our good Lord will work all things out in the best interest for both schools and congregations.*

*"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 You in Christ,” Mike Allard*

**Another Call Received:** *On Sunday, January 25, Pastor Biebert received a call to serve as a semi-retired pastor at St. John in Phelps, Wisconsin. If Pastor Biebert accepts the call, it would not start until July, so it has no effect on us here. Keep him in your prayers as he deliberates.*

**Pine Car Derby:** *The pine car derby will be held on Sunday, March 1st. Any students (or parents) who would like to participate can purchase a pine car kit from Mrs. Shadrick for \$4 each. Last year we had to cancel the pine car derby, so if you still have a kit from last year, you do not have to buy a new one, you can use last year’s. Any questions, talk to Mrs. Shadrick.*

**Meditations:** *The new “Meditations,” which start March 1<sup>st</sup>, are available in the entryway. Please consider a \$3.50 donation to help our GPS group cover the cost.*

**Thank You:** *We would like to thank all who came to our Youth Group Bingo Night. We had a very good turnout, and over \$500.00 was raised for the International Youth Rally this summer. Thanks for your support!!*

**Annual Report:** *The 2025 annual reports, which include an updated membership directory, are available on the table in the entryway. Please feel free to take one.*

### ***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 5<sup>th</sup> St., Neillsville, WI 54456**

#### **Contact Info**

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#### **Worship Schedule**

*Sunday-9:00 a.m.*