St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

711 & 805 W 5th 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.

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

THE BEGINNING OF THE END-IT'S TIME TO INVITE THE UNWORTHY

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

573 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness *CW 21*

5 When from the dust of death I rise
to claim my mansion in the skies,
this then shall be my only plea:
Jesus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
for me and all your hands have made,
an everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–1791, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893
Text and tune: Public domain

The Service Setting 2 CW 21

In the name of the Father and of the ✞ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

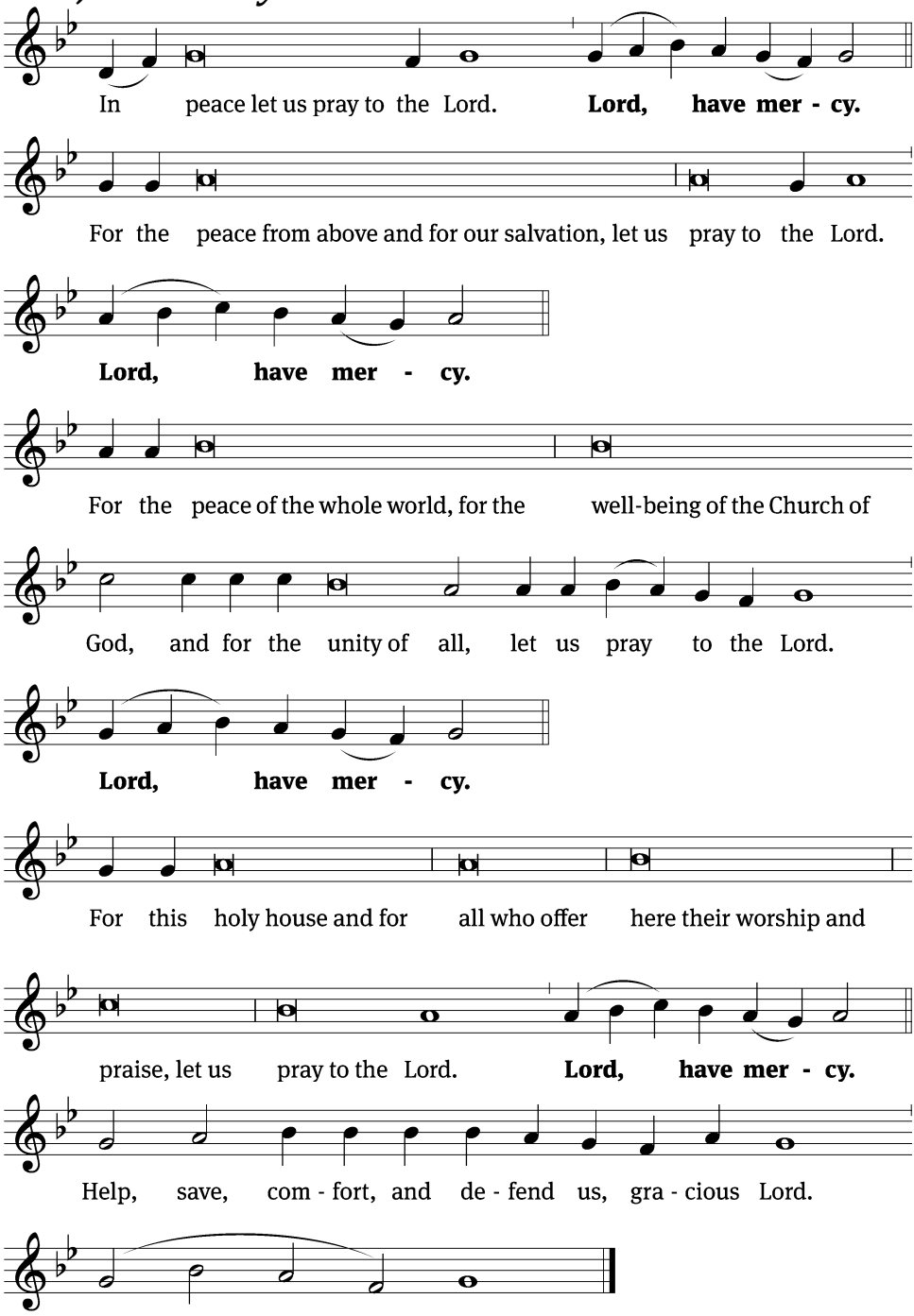
If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



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Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: Marty Haugen
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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray.

Almighty God, you invite us to trust in you for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of your judgment but by the greatness of your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6–9

6 On this mountain
the LORD of Armies will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food,
a banquet of aged wines,
with the best cuts of meat,
and with the finest wines.
7 On this mountain
he will destroy the shroud that covers all peoples,
the burial cloth stretched over all nations.
8 He has swallowed up death forever!
The LORD God will wipe away the tears from every face.
He will take away the shame of his people throughout the earth.
For the LORD has spoken.

9 On that day it will be said,
"Look, here is our God!
We waited for him, and he saved us!
This is the LORD!
We waited for him.
Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!"

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

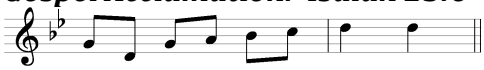
Choir sings "Jesus the Very Thought of You"

Second Reading: Romans 1:16-17

16For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes—to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed by faith, for faith, just as it is written, "The righteous will live by faith."

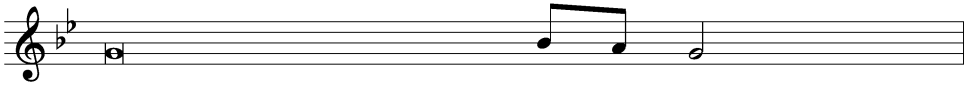
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 25:6



Refrain

Tone



Refrain

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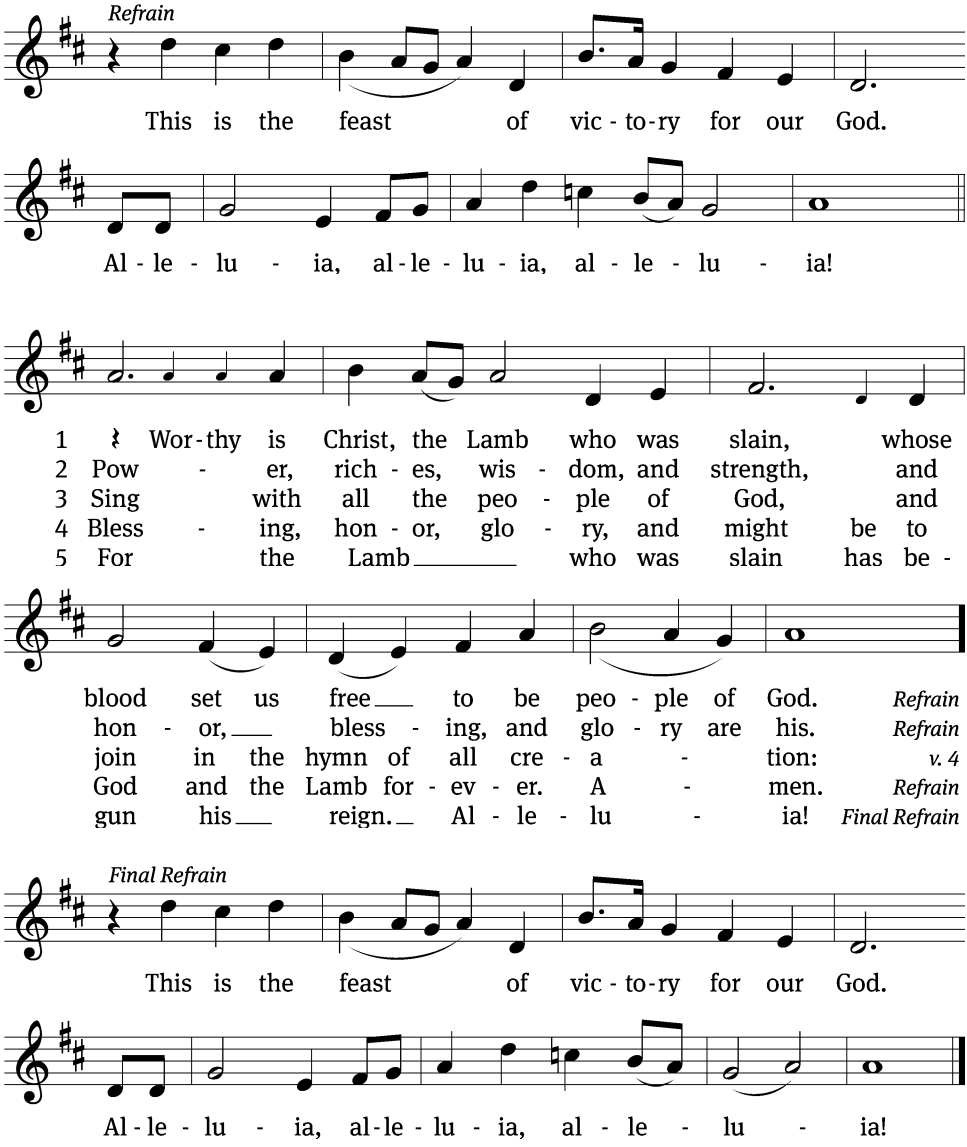
Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1–14

[1]Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, [2]"The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. [3]He sent out his servants to summon those who were invited to the wedding banquet, but they did not want to come.
[4]"Then he sent out other servants and said, 'Tell those who are invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and my fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet!'
[5]"But those who were invited paid no attention and went off, one to his own farm, another to his business. [6]The rest seized the king's servants, mistreated them, and killed them. [7]As a result, the king was very angry. He sent his army and killed those murderers and burned their town.
[8]"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. [9]So go to the main crossroads and invite as many as you find to the wedding banquet.' [10]Those servants went out to the roads and gathered together everyone they found, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.
[11]But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. [12]He said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wearing wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. [13]Then the king told the servants, 'Tie him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' [14]For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

938 This Is the Feast *CW 21*



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–1980
Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538
Tune: © 1975, 1988 Richard W. Hillert. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

Sermon Text: Matthew 22:1-14
Sermon Theme: MANY ARE CALLED; FEW ARE CHOSEN

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 truly 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.

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

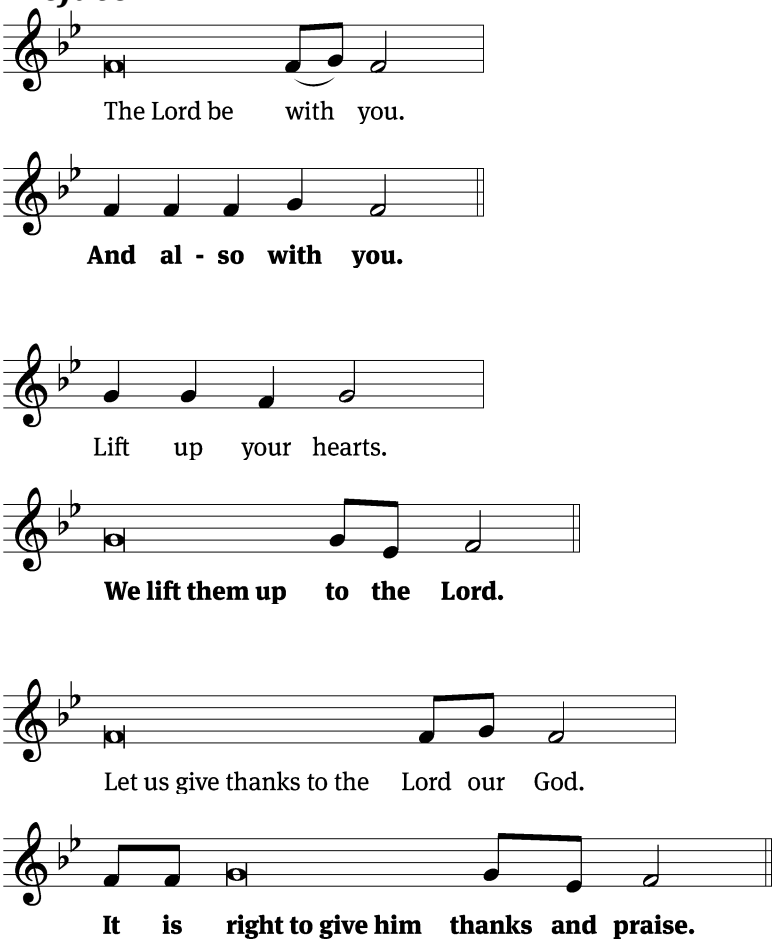
Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OFFERING - *The members of St. John's have joined together, in gratitude for God's grace in Jesus, to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world and support this gospel ministry with their time, talents, and treasures. 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.*

Friendship Registers: *Please take a few moments before church or during the offering to mark down your attendance at worship by signing the friendship registers we have placed back in the racks at the end of each pew. Thanks!*

The Sacrament

Preface



Tune: Marty Haugen
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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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.
Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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.

Words of Institution

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Tune: Marty Haugen
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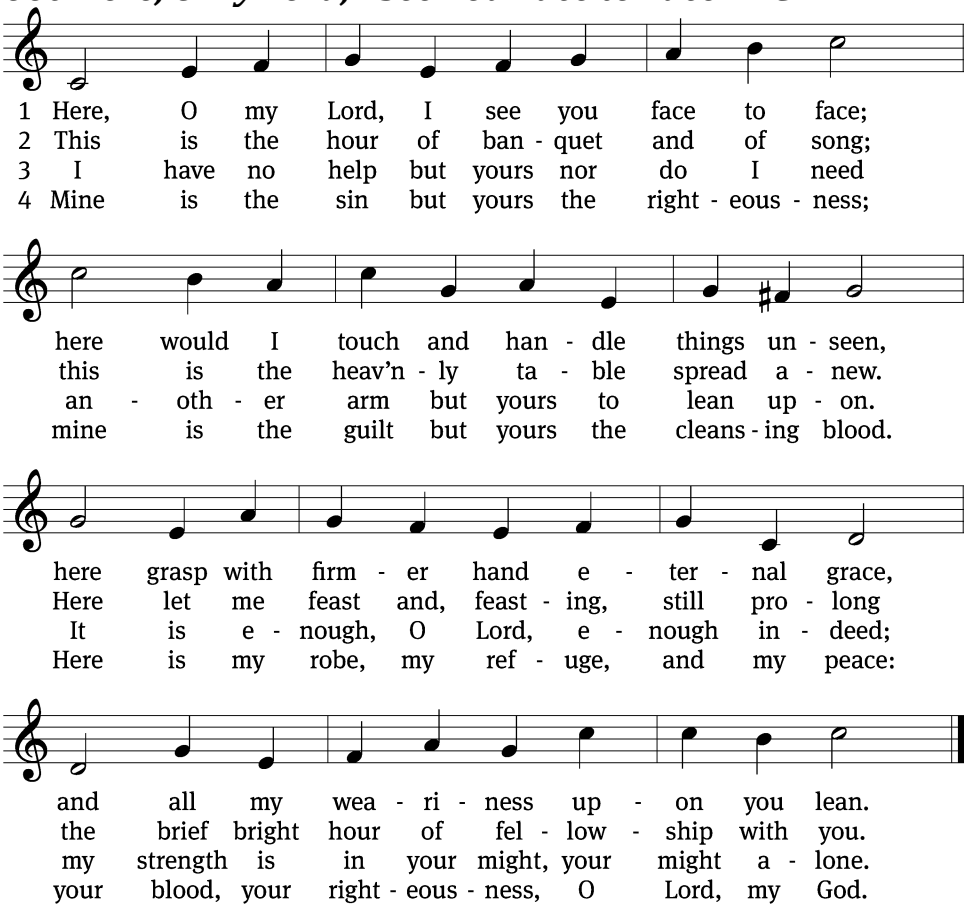
Distribution

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



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

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

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.
Amen.

930 Go, My Children, with My Blessing CW 21

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008
Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.
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Acknowledgments

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This Week at St. John's: Oct 11, 2026

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Ron & Linda Rogus
Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team
Altar Guild: Judy Quicker
Bulletins: Rosie Murphyfor her birthday (Oct 13)
Oct Website: Doug Zank in celebration of Jane going Home

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Betty Nemitz & Dianne Buettner
Ushers: Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team
Altar Guild: Jean Goetz & Ashley Leiterman

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY	9:00 AM Communion Service
	10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study
	1:00 PM Youth Group Hiking
MONDAY	6:00 PM Adult Instruction Class
WEDNESDAY	8:20 AM Chapel
	6:00 PM Choir
	7:00 PM Handbells
SATURDAY	Northland VB Tournament
SUNDAY	9:00 AM Fall Mission Fest Service
	Gr. 3K-8 sing
	10:30 AM Mission Presentation
	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
	11:30 AM FSJ Fall Dinner

Worship the Lord with Gladness:
Last Sunday: 151

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:
Thankoffering Given Last Week:
$9,398.70 (Home); $989.00 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: $9,035.00

Owed on line of credit: $57,682.68

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday Bible Study: *Sunday Bible study continues today after church. We will be studying "Christian Doctrine Two: 8 Studies on Deeper Christian Teachings." All are invited to join us in the church basement.*

Sunday School Today: *Sunday School continues today for preschool through 6th grade students. Preschool-Kindergarten students will meet in the church basement; Grades 1-6 will meet in the school. All children are invited! We encourage 7th & 8th grade students to attend Sunday Bible Study.*

No Sunday School Next Sunday: *Please note this change to the October calendar. There will be* ***NO SUNDAY SCHOOL next Sunday (10/18)****.*

Youth Group: *8th-12th graders are invited to a hiking outing TODAY. We will meet here at St. John's at 1:00. Bring along a picnic lunch. We will have a devotion, play games, and go hiking at Wildcat Mound. Because of youth hunting going on that weekend, please wear bright orange and/or pink. (There is no hunting allowed at Wildcat Mound, but we just want to exercise caution.)*

Volleyball Games: *On Tuesday we will play @ Home vs Messiah. The B Team plays at 5:00, and the A Team plays at 6:00. Come and cheer for the Hornets!*

More Volleyball Games: *On Thursday we will travel to Trinity in Marshfield. The B Team will play at 4:00, and the A-Team will play at 5:00.*

Fall Mission Fest: *Our Fall Mission Fest will be held next Sunday, October 18th. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Chris Christenson, who will be presenting on Home Mission work at Our Redeemer, Ladysmith, WI. In addition to preaching, he will be giving a special presentation in place of Bible Class after the worship service.*

Fall Dinner: *The Friends of St. John's will be sponsoring their annual Fall Dinner next Sunday, Oct. 18th, following our special Mission Fest presentation. Every year the Friends of St. John's chooses someone to be their honored guest at the Fall Dinner. This year our honorees are Henry & Julie Berry.*

In addition to honoring the Berrys, we would also like to verbally recognize at the meal the previous Fall Dinner honored guests we have had over the last 30 years.

All are invited to attend! There is no charge. Proceeds from free-will donations will go toward replacing a broken slide on the older kids' playground.

Trunk or Treat: *Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 25, from 2:00-4:00.*

Children are encouraged to dress up in costumes if they wish.

We are in need of volunteers who would be willing to decorate their trunks and bring treats to be handed out. If you would like to participate or have questions, please contact Mrs. Shadrick at 715-897-0903.

Grandparents Program: *Grades 3K-5th will be putting on a program for grandparents (and aunts, uncles, parents, etc.) on Wednesday, October 28th.*

We will have chapel at 9:00 that morning, and following chapel will continue with the activities being planned.

All grandparents and other relatives are invited to join us for chapel at 9:00 and for the activities/program, which will be done at 11:00.

Thanksgiving Service: *Based on the feedback shared with Brian Thell and Pastor Tim, we will go ahead with a Thanksgiving Eve service this year.*

Home Visits: *"As of this month, I've made 38 of my home visits. I'm still setting those up and working through our membership. I look forward to sitting down with you, if I've not yet!"* ***- Pastor Tim***

Candy Bags: *We would once again like to fill candy bags to give to the children after their Christmas program in December. We are in need of cash donations to help cover the cost of the candy and other items. Please mark your donation "candy bags" and place your gift in the offering basket or turn in at the school office. Thanks!*

Flag Football Wrap-Up: *This past Monday we wrapped up our flag football season. We finished Monday night with a win against Messiah and tied St. Marks. The Hornets played hard and kept improving every game. Thank You to all the parents for driving for practices and our games. Special thank you to our coaches: Faith Schmidt, Cody Kallian, Carter Hannasch, and Mr. Leiterman. Also, we want to thank our refs who made our home game possible: Nathan Wilke, Matthew Ladd, and Cody Kallian. We look forward to next year!*

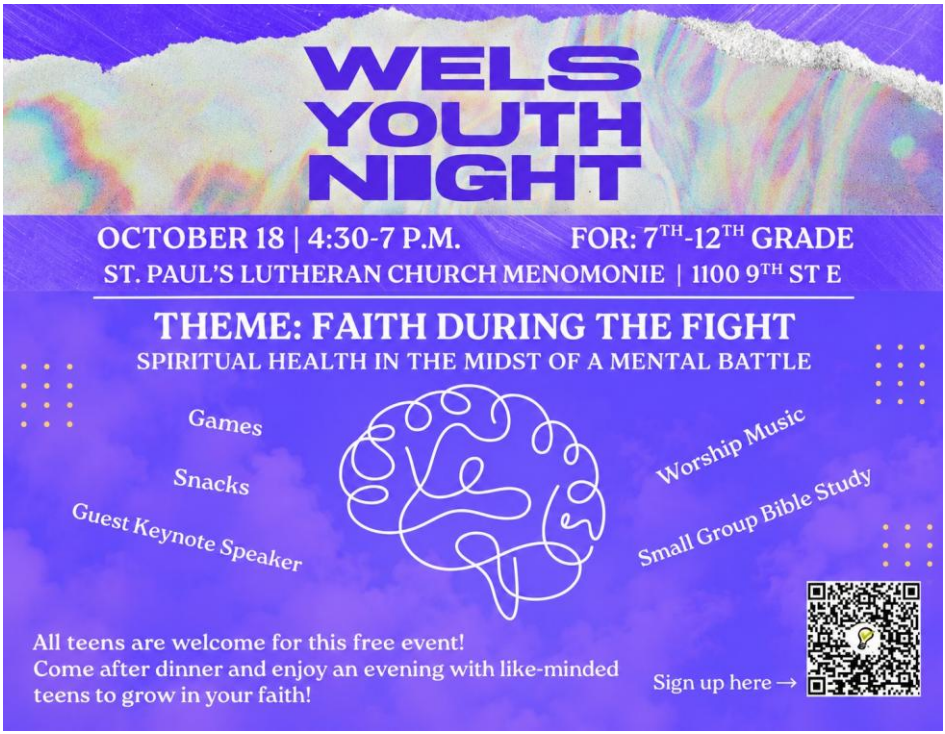
Walk to School Day: *Pictured below is our Walk-To-School Day crew. We thank the members of the Neillsville Optimist Club and the other parents who walked along with the students!*

Student of the Week: *The student of the week is Piper Keller. Piper is in 2nd Grade. She is a hard worker, gets her work done, is polite and respectful to teachers and fellow classmates, and sets a good example in the classroom. Congratulations Piper!*

Thrivent: *As we start another school year, we want to encourage you to consider using your Thrivent Action Teams to help provide needed school supplies and resources for our students. For those who have Thrivent, Thrivent Action Teams offer an opportunity for members to make a positive difference by organizing a service project or supporting a need within our school community. To do so, please submit an action team online and label it "Education Supplies." By working together and using these opportunities to purchase classroom supplies, educational materials, or other needed items, we can help support our school while being good stewards of the blessings God has provided.*

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Mr. Leiterman.

Youth Night: *Sign up for Youth Night at St. Paul's in Menomonie on October 18th is now open. Registration closes on Tuesday, October 15th. See details below.*



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

DARTBALL
IS BACK!

GAMES START
NOV. 2ND
GAMES ARE ON
MONDAYS
AT 7:30 P.M.

GAMES ARE PLAYED AT:

- St. John's Neillsville
- St. John's Christie
- Greenwood

Fellowship

Come out, play dartball,
and enjoy some friendly fellowship!

CONTACT DOUG ZANK
or BRANDON LEITERMAN
if interested

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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Facebook (church):	*www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/*
Facebook (school):	*www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/*

Worship Schedule
Sunday-9:00 a.m.