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.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

The Bible describes Christians as planted by the Word. Why do some people grow in faith, and not others? What makes Christians different? The Bible describes the supernatural process by which God calls people to faith through the gospel. He promises that his Word always accomplishes his purpose. It is powerful all on its own, without our help. As we grow in faith, we give God thanks for the miracle of his work in our lives.

Our focus today: WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT-CHRISTIANS ARE PLANTED BY THE WORD

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.

609 We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer *CW 21*

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.
Tune: Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, Haarlem, 1626
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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

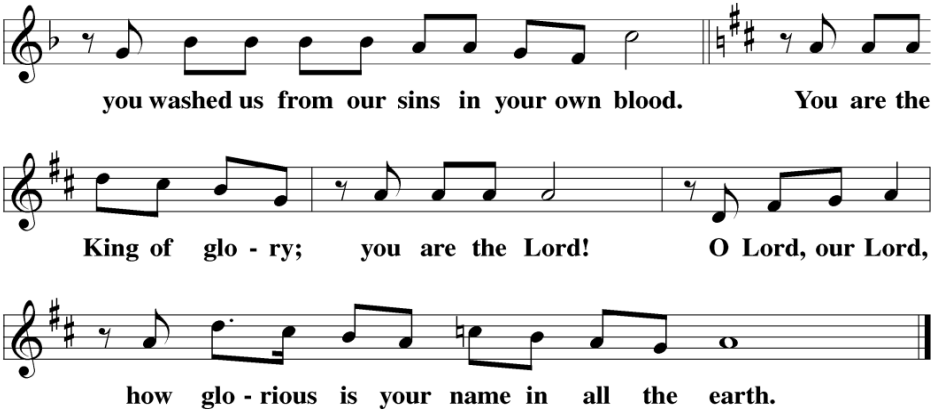
M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

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.

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.

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

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



M: Let us pray.

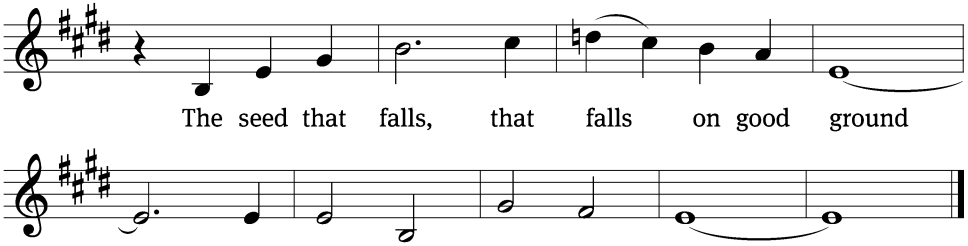
Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10–13

10 Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and do not return there
unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to sprout,
so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth
will not return to me empty.
Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,
and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.
12 Yes, you will go out with joy,
and in peace you will be carried along.
The mountains and the hills will break out in shouts of joy before you,
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
13 Instead of thorns, a fir tree will grow up.
Instead of briers, a myrtle tree will grow up.
This will make a name for the LORD.
It will serve as an everlasting sign that will not be cut off.

Psalm 65A *CW 21*

Refrain



Tone

Praise awaits / you, our God;
you call forth / songs of joy.
You care for the land and / water it;
you soften it with showers and / bless its crops.
The streams of God are filled with / water
to provide the peo- / ple with grain. ***Refrain***

You crown the year with your / bounty,
and your carts overflow with a- / bundance.
The whole earth is / filled with awe
at your / wonders.
The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are man- / tled with grain;
they shout for / joy and sing.
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: David Haas, alt.
Tune: David Haas, alt.
Text and tune: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538
Setting: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

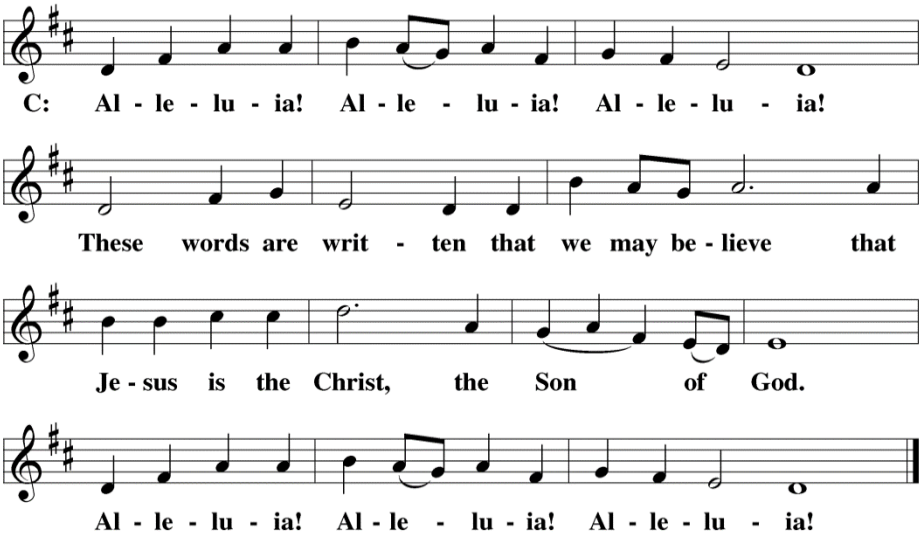
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:5–11

[5]What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are ministers through whom you believed, and each served as the Lord gave him his role. [6]I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. [7]So then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but it is God who causes the growth. [8]The one who plants and the one who waters are united, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. [9]For God is the one whom we serve as coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.

[10]In keeping with the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. But let each person be careful how he builds on it. [11]In fact, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 55:11

Alleluia! My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia!



Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

[1]That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. [2]A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. [3]He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow. [4]As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. [5]Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. [6]But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away. [7]Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. [8]But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. [9]Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

[18]"So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. [19]When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. [20]The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, [21]yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. [22]The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. [23]But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown."

Hymn 514 You Are the Way; through You Alone, CW 21

1 You are the way; thro' you a - lone can we the Fa - ther find;
2 You are the truth; your Word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb pro-claims your con-qu'ring arm,
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,

in you, O Christ, has God re-vealed his heart and will and mind.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you nor death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
Tune: The CL Psalmes of David, Edinburgh, 1615
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: Isaiah 55:10-13
AS CHRISTIANS, WE ARE NOT AFRAID TO SOW

I. There is a need to be out there sowing.
II. The Lord wants you.
III. We have the good seed.
IV. We have the perfect water.
V. We have the Lord's promise.

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, 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.*

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

M: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

C: Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

C: Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

C: Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

M: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

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

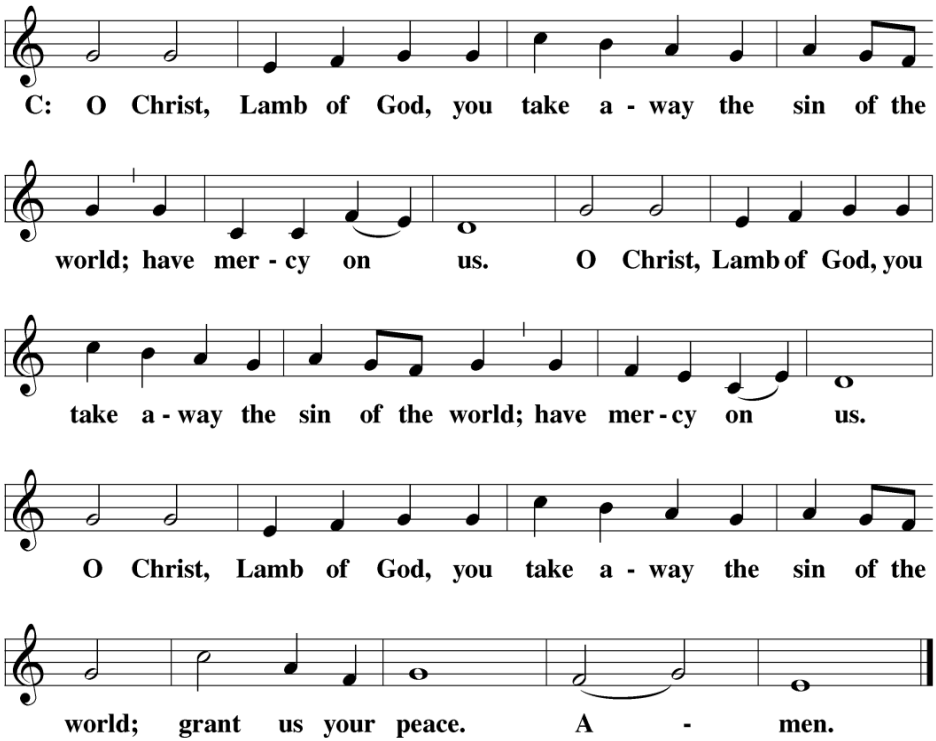
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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."

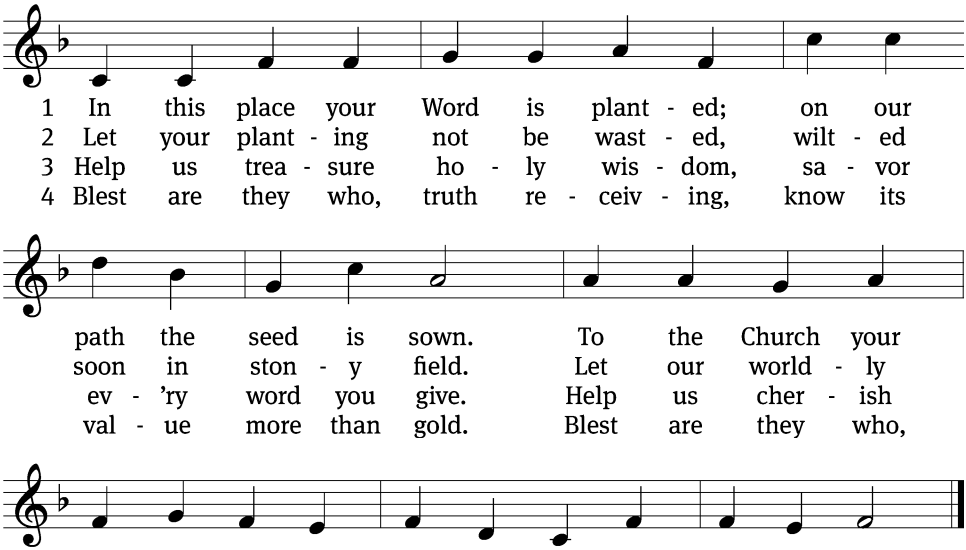
M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: 981 & 905

981 In This Place Your Word Is Planted CW 21

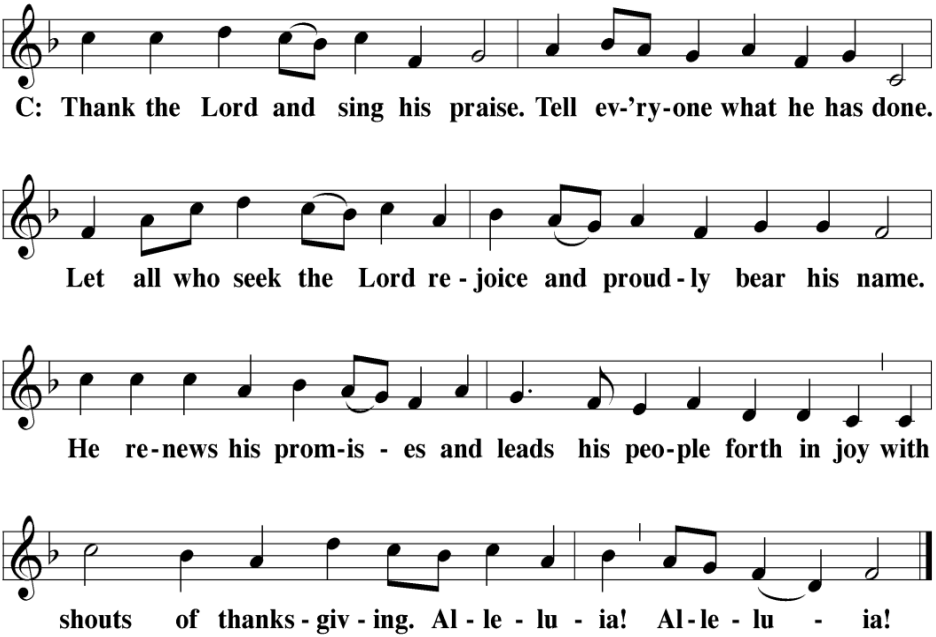


Text: Delores Dufner, b. 1939
Tune: Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716
Text: © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538
Tune: Public domain

905 Good News of God Above *CW 21*

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949
Text: © 1988 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538
Tune: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716538

THANK THE LORD



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.

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.

Hymn 640 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage CW 21

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, alt.
Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of Word and Sacrament © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.
Scripture quotations taken from the Evangelical Heritage Version. Copyright by the Wartburg Project 2019. EHV (Evangelical Heritage Version) is a registered trademark of the Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. All music is used by permission under OneLicense.net #716538-A; CCLI Print License #5428473..

This Week at St. John's: July 12, 2026

SERVING US TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Ron Baerbock
Greeters: Marilyn Shaw & Alice Glinski
Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team
Altar Guild: Megan Allard
Bulletins: Craig & Rachel Anderson for their anniversary
July Website: Betty Nemitz in thanks for God's Blessings

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Kathleen Quast & Lynda Hilliard
Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team
Altar Guild: Charlene Siebert

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY	9:00 AM Communion Service
	3:00 PM Installation Service
	4:00 PM Pot Luck Meal
MON-FRI	Day Camp
TUES-FRI	International Youth Rally
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM Worship Service
	10:15 AM LIGHTS serve refreshments

Worship the Lord with Gladness:
Last Sunday: 102

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:
Thankoffering Given Last Week:
$7,508.00 (Home); $565.00 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: $9,035.00

Owed on line of credit: $49,153.28

CHURCH NEWS

Guest Pastor: *We thank Pastor Ron Baerbock for leading our worship service this morning and look forward to hearing his message from God's Word. Thank you for your willing service, Pastor Baerbock!*

Pastor Walsh Installation: *The installation service for Pastor Walsh will be held at* ***3:00 p.m. this afternoon****. We hope many of our members can attend this very important service.*

Pot-Luck Meal: *Following the installation service, we will be having a pot-luck supper in the school gym. All of you are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to pass.*

Gift Card Shower: *Since Pastor and Ruth Walsh already have household supplies, we thought a gift card "shower" would be a good idea. If you'd like to give them a gift, please consider purchasing local-area gift cards. This will help them to get used to the area as they shop. You can give them your gift personally, or you can bring your gift to the pot-luck meal this afternoon.*

Note from Pastor Walsh: *"Hello, brothers and sisters at St. John's! I am eager to arrive and begin serving you all. Over the next year, I hope to visit all our members at home. Please start thinking about when your schedule would allow for a short visit from me. God richly bless you all!" – Pastor Walsh*

Day Camp: *Day Camp will be this week July 13th – 17th. The theme for this year is Ride the Wave! with our theme passage taken from Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." Camp will run from 8am-12pm. Campers can still register – please invite your friends! If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions about camp, please contact Megan Allard (715) 937-7535.*

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

Refreshments Next Sunday: *Because of our semi-annual meeting on July 26th, our LIGHTS group has decided to serve refreshments under the canopy after church* ***NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 19TH.*** *We look forward to that next Sunday.*

Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting: *Our semi-annual voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, July 26th, right after the worship service. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend.*

Reports for the semi-annual meeting are available on the table in the entryway. Please feel free to pick one up.

Council Positions: Elections for officers and elders will take place at the semi-annual meeting. Please consider whether the Lord has given you the gifts to serve His church. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to have your name placed on the ballot, please contact any of our current church council members or talk to John Hagedorn.

Special Thanks: *We would like to thank Pastor Nathan Wilke, who has been serving as our vacancy pastor since May 25. His vacancy work for us concludes after the installation service this afternoon. Thanks for your willing service, Pastor Wilke! It is greatly appreciated!!*

Church Council Highlights

Worship

Livestreaming: *Brian Thell and Judy Trunkel will be attending a workshop in Merrill on Saturday, August 1, to learn more about the possibility of livestreaming our worship services.*

Adult Discipleship

New Members: *Pastor Tim & Ruth Walsh and their children, Eliana, Henry, and Levi were formally accepted as members.*

Youth & Family

Day Camp Brat Fry: *$650.00 was raised for Day Camp at the brat fry on June 20. Thanks to all who helped and all who enjoyed the brats!*

Youth Rally: *Mrs. Shadrick, Pastor Wilke, and eight teens will be attending the International Youth Rally in Ohio this week Tuesday through Friday.*

School Board

School Boiler: *One of the school boilers needs to be replaced. We are currently getting estimates on a new boiler and are also talking about the possibility of installing an industrial water heater instead of another boiler. Watch for updates.*

Golf Outing: *The HIS group is sponsoring a Golf Outing on Saturday, August 15th, to help raise funds for tuition assistance. More details can be found on the poster on the next page.*

Financial Update:

Endowment Fund: *The Council approved withdrawing $25,000.00 from the endowment fund to cover moving expenses and the parsonage updating.*

Financial Reports: *Financial reports for the first half of 2026 are included in the semi-annual voters' meeting reports that are available this morning in the entryway.*

$45
Neillsville Country Club Members

$60
Non-Members

TEE-OFF For Tuition

Support St. John's and help us build our Tuition Assistance Account as we strive to provide an excellent Christ-Centered Education to as many students as possible.

ST. JOHN'S HORNETS

Neillsville Country Club

SATURDAY | 10:00 AM

August 15

9 Hole 4 Person Scramble
Includes Lunch and Cart

Register by August 1st!
Scan QR Code or Contact:

Becca Biebert : 507-766-1159
beccalbiebert@gmail.com

***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
Contact Info

Church & School Office:	*stjohns1886@gmail.com*
	715-743-2501
Nathan Wilke, Vacancy Pastor:	*pastorwilke@gmail.com*
	308-660-2648 (cell)
Mike Allard, Principal:	*allardmj1@gmail.com*
	715-937-7534 (cell)
John Hagedorn, Chairman:	*hagedornjohnw2@gmail.com*
	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.