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.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

Our focus today: WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT-CHRISTIANS SEEK SPIRITUAL WEALTH

699 Take the World, but Give Me Jesus CW 21

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The Service Setting 2 CW 21

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

Confession

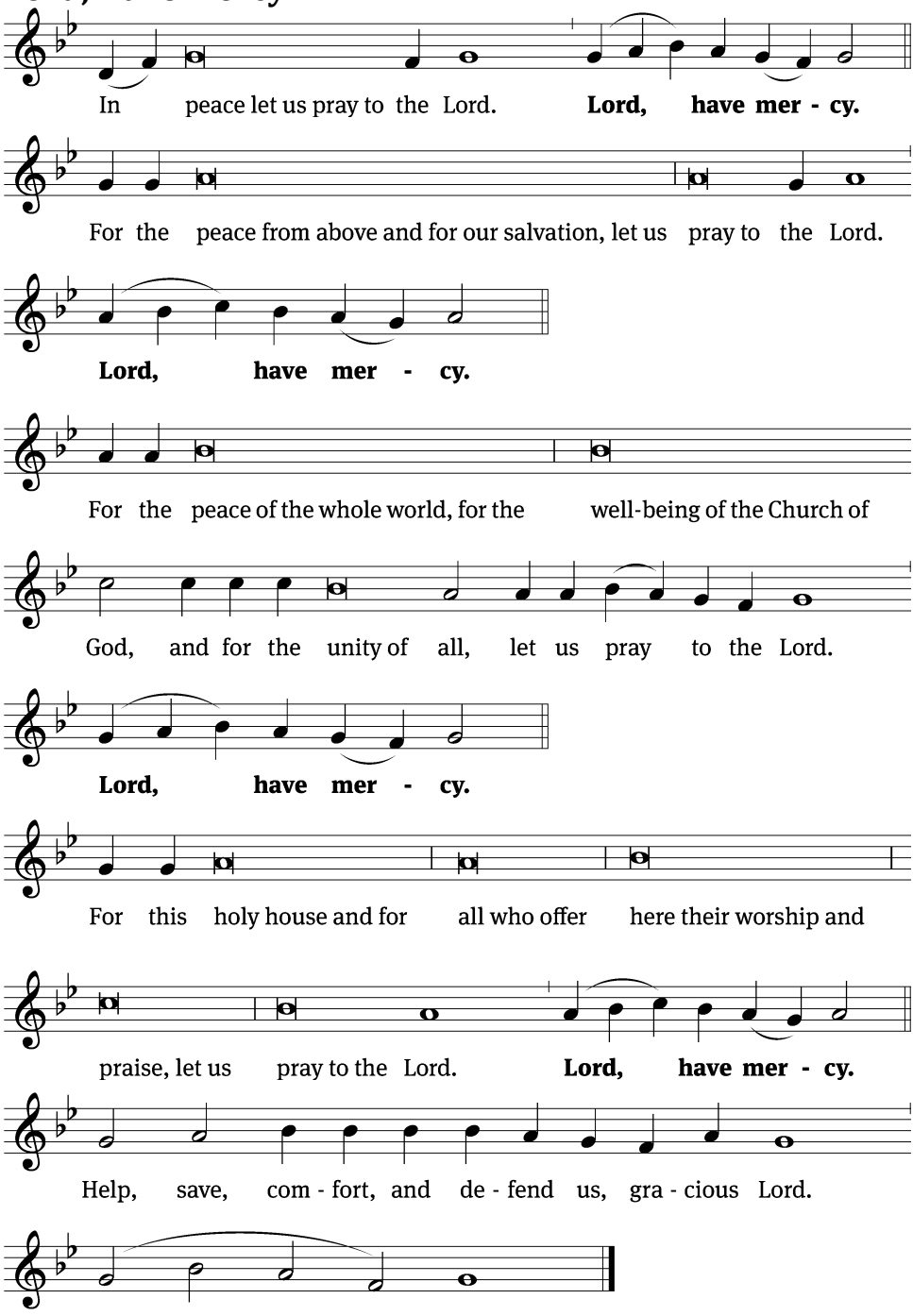
If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

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 ✞Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



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Glory Be to God on High

Tune: Marty Haugen
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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

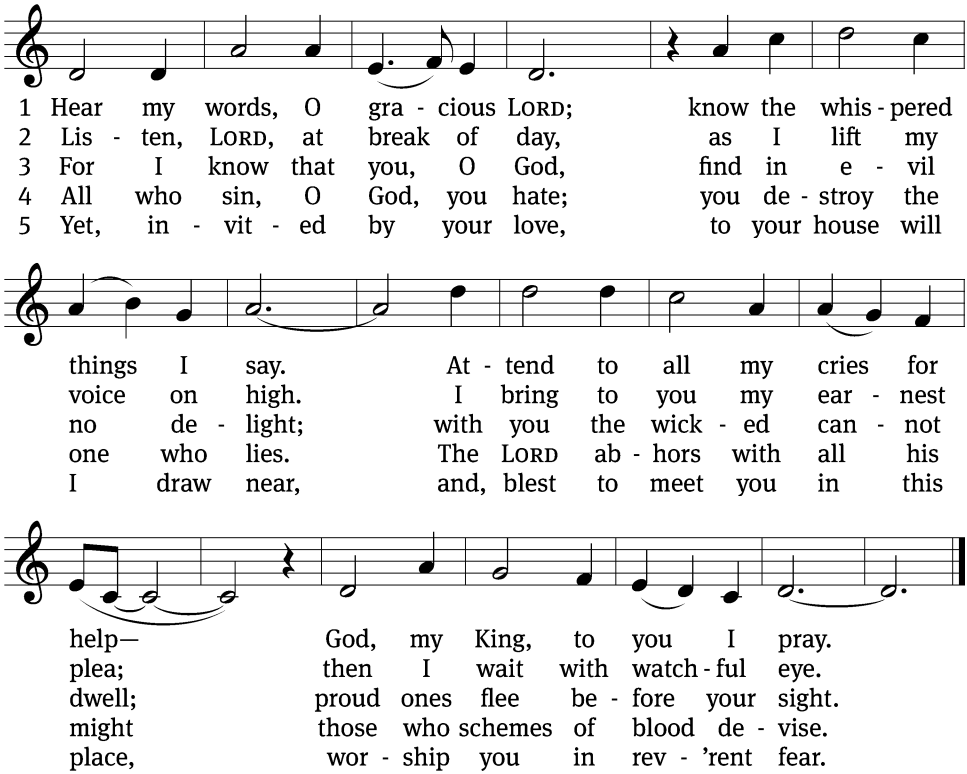
Prayer of the Day
Let us pray.

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; 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: 1 Kings 3:5–12
5The LORD appeared to Solomon in Gibeon in a dream at night.
God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."
6Solomon said, "You have shown great mercy and faithfulness to your servant, my father David, just as he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward you. You have shown this great mercy and faithfulness to him and have given him a son who is seated on his throne to this very day. 7O LORD my God, now you have made your servant king in the place of my father David, but I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. 8And I, your servant, am among your people whom you have chosen, a great people, who cannot be counted or numbered because they are so many. 9Now give to your servant a perceptive heart to judge your people, to distinguish between good and evil, for who is able to judge this great people of yours?"
10In the eyes of the LORD, Solomon's request was good. 11So God said to him, "Because you have asked for this, and you have not asked for a long life, nor have you asked for riches, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but you have asked for discernment to reach just verdicts, 12therefore I will act according to your words. Yes, I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you before you, nor will anyone like you rise up after you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 5A — *CW 21 Psalter*



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Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:17–21

17Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but rather in God, who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment. 18Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. 19In this way they are storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

20O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, turning away from godless, empty talk and the contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge." 21By professing it, some have veered away from the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

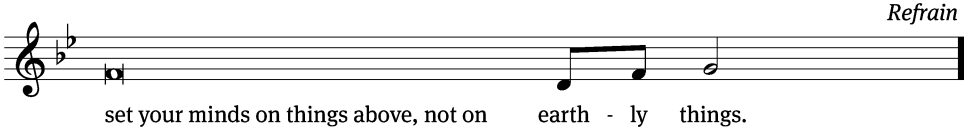
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Colossians:3:1,2

Refrain

Tone

Refrain



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Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:44–53

44"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again. In his joy, he goes away and sells all that he has and buys that field.
45"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls.
46When he found one very valuable pearl, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
47"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. 48When the net was filled, they pulled it onto the shore. They sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but threw the bad ones away. 49That is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous who are among them. 50And they will throw the wicked into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 51Jesus said to them, "Did you understand all these things?"
They answered him, "Yes."
52He said to them, "Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained as a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure both new things and old things."
53When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

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

Children's Message

717 What Is the World to Me *CW 21*

Text: Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Matthew 13:44–53
Sermon Theme: Christian Wisdom Seeks Spiritual Treasure.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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. Heavenly Father, comfort the family of Anita Berry, whom you have now called to eternal glory in heaven. We praise you for making her your child in Baptism and sustaining her faith through the good news about Jesus our Savior. We thank you for the blessings you brought to your church, this community, and her family through her life of Christian service.
May the peace and promise of your Son's atoning sacrifice on the cross and his empty tomb bring assurance to the hearts of all who mourn.

Help us always to live in joyful anticipation of the day when you will call us from our graves, reunite us with Anita and all believers, and fill us with perfect bliss in your presence forever.

Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.
Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

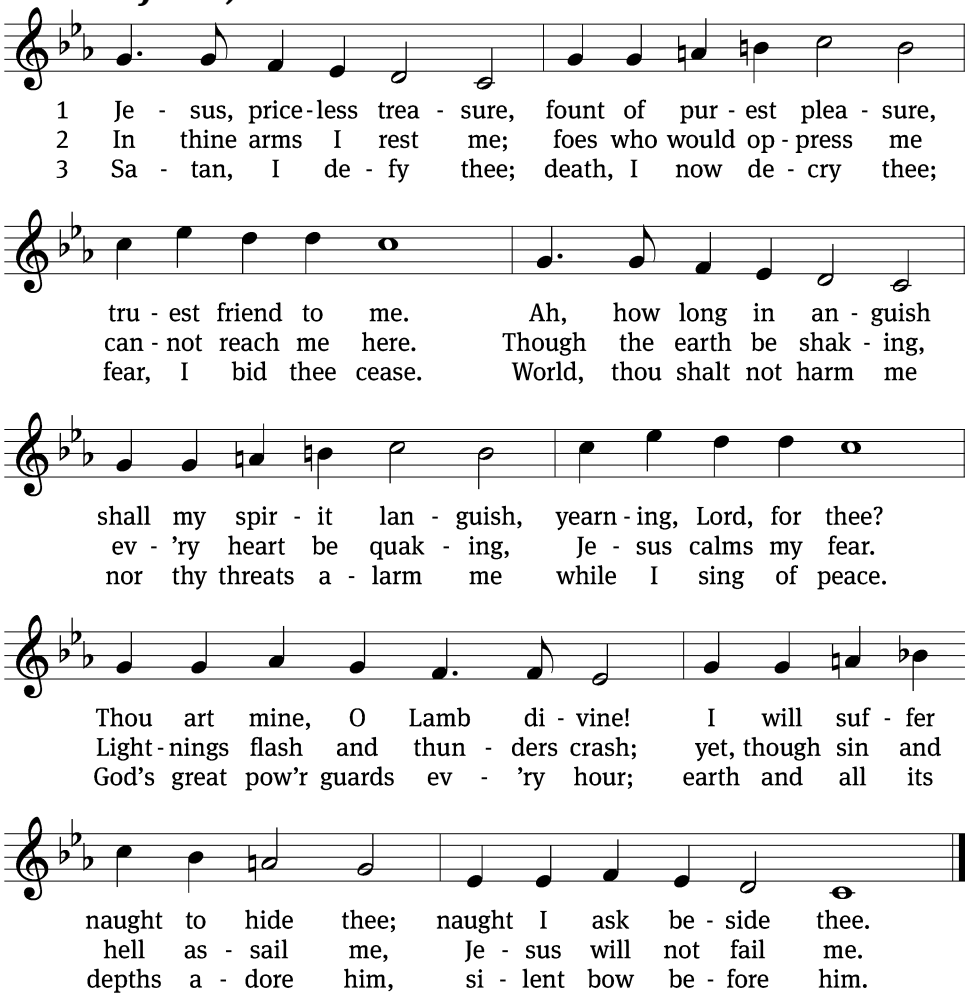
Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

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.*

823:1-3 Jesus, Priceless Treasure CW 21



Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; (sts. 1–2): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 3): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
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.

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.

823:4,5 Jesus, Priceless Treasure CW 21

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship
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This Week at St. John's: July 26, 2026

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Joan Zickert & Jean Goetz
Ushers: Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team
Altar Guild: Pat Strangfeld
Bulletins: Jill Opelt in memory of Russell
July Website: Betty Nemitz in thanks for God's Blessings

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Ed & Jenn Schmid
Ushers: Team 3-Dick Urban's team
Altar Guild: Judy Quicker

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY	9:00 AM Worship Service
	10:15 AM Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting
SATURDAY	Live-Streaming Workshop in Merrill
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM Communion Service

Worship the Lord with Gladness:
Last Sunday: 148

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:
Thankoffering Given Last Week:
$5,481.00 (Home); $607.00 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: $9,035.00

Owed on line of credit: $48,908.98

CHURCH NEWS

Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting: *Our semi-annual voters' meeting will be held today right after the worship service. We hope many of you can attend!*

Reports for the semi-annual meeting are available on the table in the entryway. Please feel free to pick one up if you haven't done so already.

Funeral: *The funeral for Anita Berry, who was taken home to heaven on Tuesday, July 21, will be held here tomorrow. Visitation will be here at church from 9:30-11:00, and the funeral service will be held at 11:00, with a lunch immediately after the service in the school gym.*

Let's keep Anita's family and friends in our prayers as they look forward to a blessed reunion with Anita in heaven.

Communion: *Next Sunday, August 2nd, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper at the rail.*

Home Visits: *I have begun home visits to our members. I'll initiate scheduling these. Please don't worry about "hosting" me for a meal! These visits are meant to be short, just so I get to know each household a little bit. - Pastor Walsh*

Special Thanks: *"Thank you all so very much for warmly welcoming our family to Neillsville and St. John's. To those in particular who organized our pantry shower and other gifts on our arrival, we are incredibly grateful. God has already richly blessed us through you!" -- the Walsh family*

Sunday Bible Class: *Sunday Bible study will resume on Sunday, September 20th. Watch for further details and reminders.*

Sunday School: *Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 20th. As of right now, we have teachers for the Preschool-Kindergarten classroom and the Grades 1-4 classroom.*

Is there anyone who would be interested in teaching our Grades 5-8 classroom, or even team-teaching in one of the other classrooms? It'd be great if we had a few more volunteers so that it wouldn't necessarily be an "every Sunday" obligation. If you're interested or would like more details, please talk to Pastor Walsh.

Calendars: *August calendars are available in the entryway.*

Golf Outing: *The HIS group is sponsoring a Golf Outing on Saturday, August 15th, to help raise funds for tuition assistance. Posters with more details can be found on the table in the entryway.*

Golf Outing More Info: *If you are not interested in golfing but would like to come and enjoy the day and join the golfers for lunch, the cost would be $15. Lunch will include burgers and all the extras and will be at the Neillsville Country Club around 11:30 on August 15th. If you're interested in coming for lunch, please talk to Becca Biebert (507-766-1159).*

Library Help: *We are looking for someone who may be interested in helping in our library in a couple of ways. Are you willing to check books in? Are you interested in putting returned books back on the shelves and keeping books organized? Would you enjoy reading children's books out loud to different classes throughout the week? If any of these intrigued you reach out to Mr. Allard to see how you could help out your school in a big way. This is a pretty flexible way for you to volunteer and make a big impact. Thanks for thinking about it!*

(If you are interested in volunteering/cleaning/helping out at school please reach out to Mr. Allard or any of the other teachers to discuss. Thanks!)

NEILLSVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB IS SPONSORING A

SUMMER SPLASH DAY!

AUGUST 13TH

1-3 PM

Rain Date Aug. 14th

Giant Water Slide
Water Games
Splash Pad
Playground
Sno Cones
and more!

St. John's Lutheran School Playground

711 W 5th St. Neillsville

AGES 4-12

Parents may stay or drop off children.

Registration begins at 12:45.

CALL DARLENE AT 715-743-6222 TO REGISTER

SPONSORED BY ROCK N ROLL TO GO!

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
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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.